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A N
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
OF THE
Great and Tremendous Storm

Which happened on Nov. 26th, 1703.

The LORD bath his way in the STORM. NAHUM i. 3.

At his word the stormy wind ariseth. PSALM cvii. 25.

He maketh the clouds his chariot, and walketh upon the wings of the wind. PSALM civ. 3.

L O N D O N:

Printed for W. NICOLL, in St. Paul's Church-yard.

MDCCLXIX.

AN
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
OF THE
Great and Tremendous Storm

Which happened on Nov. 26th, 1703.

The Lord said he was in the storm. Psalm lvi. 3.
It blew with the force of a flood. Psalm cxxv. 2.
He rent the clouds his chariot, and rode upon the
wings of the wind. Psalm civ. 3.

L O N D O N :
Printed for W. Nicol, in St. Paul's Church-yard.
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AN
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
OF THE
GREAT STORM,

Nov. 26th, 1703.

CHAP. I.

SECT. I.

Of the NATURAL CAUSES and ORIGINAL
of WINDS.

*The wind bloweth where it listeth; thou hearest
the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence
it cometh.* JOHN iii. 8.

IN searching after causes, we may at any
time resolve all things into Infinite
Power: we allow the Mighty First Cause
of Nature; but the treasury of immediate
causes is what philosophy explores; if at any
time we look beyond that, it is because we
are out of the way: it is not because the
object of our search is not there, but because
we cannot find it. The philosopher's busi-

B

ness

ness is not to extend his inquiries to the operations of Infinite Power : his business is with nature, there grows what he looks for, and it is there he must find it : philosophy is a-ground when forced to farther researches.

It is not enough for the astronomer to know that God has made the heavens, the sun, the moon, and all the stars ; he must search after the causes, motions, and influences among the heavenly bodies ; what are their functions, and ends of their being : he must inform himself where they are placed, and why there.

The anatomist is not satisfied to know that he is fearfully and wonderfully made, in the lowermost parts of the earth ; but he must see those lowermost parts ; search into the method nature proceeds upon in performing the office appointed ; must watch the steps she takes, and mark the tools she works with : he will endeavour after the most exquisite discoveries of the human body, and all the vessels of life and sense, with their proper dimensions and uses.

In short, every philosopher will endeavour to know all that the God of nature has permitted to be capable of demonstration. To search after what our maker has not hid, only covered with a thin veil of natural obscurity, and which upon our search is plain to be read, seems to be justified by the very nature of the thing ; and the possibility of the demonstration

OF WINDS. 3

tion is an argument to prove the lawfulness of the inquiry.

Air, the general menstruum and seminary, ^{Siris, p. 67.} seemeth to be only an aggregate of the volatile parts of all natural beings, which, variously combined and agitated, produce various effects. Small particles, in a near and close situation, strongly act upon each other, attracting, repelling, vibrating. Hence divers fermentations, and all the variety of meteors, tempests, and concussions both of earth and firmament.

The demonstrations made of rarefaction and dilation are extraordinary: lord Verulam's experiment on feathers proves that by fire and water wind may be raised in a close room.

There is no effect in nature, great, marvellous, or terrible, but proceeds from fire; ^{Siris, p. 72.} that diffused and active principle, which at the same time that it shakes the earth and heavens, will enter, divide and dissolve the smallest, closest and most compacted bodies. In remote cavities of the earth it remains quiet, till perhaps an accidental spark from the collision of one stone against another kindles an exhalation that gives birth to an earthquake or a tempest, which splits mountains or overturns cities.

Upon the whole, it appears, that the winds are a part of the works of God by nature, in which he has been pleased to communicate

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less of demonstration to us than in many other cases: they therefore refer us to infinite power more than the other parts of nature do: the christian begins where the philosopher ends: when the enquirer turns his eyes to heaven, farewell philosophy! When nothing can be made of the enquiry here, then we are forced to cry out, Lord, what is man!

As the dreadful hurricane, the dismal effects of which, we purpose to relate, was first felt from the West, some have conjectured that the first generation, or collection of materials, was from the continent of America; possibly from that part of Florida and Virginia, where, the confluence of vapours raised by the sun from the vast lakes and inland seas of water, which are incredibly large as well as numerous, might afford sufficient matter for the tempest; and where time adding to the preparation, God, who confined his providence to the chain of natural causes, might muster together those troops of combustion, till they made a sufficient army duly proportioned to the expedition designed.

This opinion is the more probable, because they felt an unusual tempest a few days before the fatal 27th of November.

He must have studied the motion of the clouds very nicely, who can calculate how long this army of terror might take up in its furious march: possibly the velocity of its motion

tion might not be so great at first setting out as it was afterward; though it may be true, that by the length of the way the force of the wind spends itself, and so by degrees ceases as the vapours find more room for dilation; yet we may suppose a conjunction of some confederate matter which might fall in with this by the way, or which, meeting it at its arrival here, might join forces in executing the commission received from above. Yet the vast collection of matter did not all take motion in one and the same moment, for as they advanced and pressed those before them, the violence increased in proportion: and thus we may conceive that the motion might not have arrived at its meridian violence till it reached our island; and even then, it blew some days, yet much less than that last night of its force; and even that night, the violence was not at its extremity till about an hour before sun-rise; and then it continued declining, though it blew a full storm for four days after.

As our island was the first, this way, to receive the impressions of the violent hurricane, it had the most terrible effects here; and continuing its steady course, we find it carried a true line clear over the continent of Europe, traversing England, France, Germany, the Baltic sea; and passing the northern continent of Sweden, Finland, Mus-

6 NATURAL CAUSES

covy, and part of Tartary, must at last lose itself in the vast Northern Ocean, where ships never sailed. As its violence could have no effect there but upon the vast mountains of ice and the huge drifts of snow; in this abyss of moisture and cold, it is very probable the force of it was checked, and the world restored to calmness and quiet. In this circle of fury it might find its end, not far off from whence it had its beginning: the fierceness of the motion, perhaps, not arriving to a period, till having passed the pole, it reached again the northern parts of America.

S E C T. II.

Of the opinions of the Ancients that this island was more subject to storms than other parts of the world.

IN early ages, when these islands were first known, they were esteemed the most terrible part of the world for storms and tempests.

Camden tells us, the Britons were distinguished from all the world by unpassable seas and terrible northern winds, which made the Albion shores dreadful to sailors; and this part of the world was therefore reckoned the utmost bounds of the northern known land, beyond which none had ever sailed; and quotes a great variety of authors to that purpose,

*

Some

Some are for placing the nativity of the winds hereabout, as if they had been all generated here; and the confluence of matter had made this island its general rendezvous.

But there are several places in the world far better adapted to be the general receptacle or centre of vapours, to supply a fund of tempestuous matter, than England: particularly the vast lakes of America.

One reason which gave the ancients such terrible apprehensions of this part of the world, (which of late we find as habitable and navigable as any of the rest) might be, that,

Before the multitude and industry of inhabitants prevailed to the managing, inclosing, and improving the country, the vast tracks of land in this island which continually lay open to the flux of the sea, and to the inundations of land-waters, were as so many standing lakes; from whence the sun continually evaporating quantities of moist vapours, the air could not but be continually crouded with all those materials to which we ascribe the origin of winds, rains, storms, and the like.

He that is acquainted with the situation of England, and reflects on the vast quantity of flat grounds, on the banks of all our navigable rivers and the shores of the sea, which lands at least lying under water every spring-tide, and being thereby continually full of moisture,

Flat
grounds
and sens.

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ture, were like a stagnated body of water brooding vapours in the intervals of every tide, must own, that at least a sixteenth part of the whole island may come into this denomination.

Let him that doubts the truth of this, examine a little the particulars: let him stand upon Shooters-hill in Kent, and view the mouth of the river Thames, and consider what a river it must be when none of the marshes on either side were walled in from the sea; and when the sea, without all question, flowed up to the foot of the hills on either shore, and up every creek, where is now dry land for two miles in breadth at least, sometimes three or four, for above forty miles on both sides the river.

Let him reflect, how all these parts lay when, as ancient history relates, the Danish fleet came up almost as far as Hartford; so that all that train of fresh marshes, which reach twenty-five miles in length, from Ware to the river Thames, must have been a channel.

Imagine the vast track of marsh-lands on both sides the river Thames, to Harwich on the Essex, and Whitstable on the Kentish side; the level marshes up the Stour from Sandwich to Canterbury; the whole extent of low-grounds commonly called Romney Marsh, from Hythe to Winchelsea, and up the banks of the Rother; all which
put

put together, and being allowed to be in one place covered with water, what a lake would it be supposed to make! according to the nicest calculations it could not amount to less than five hundred thousand acres of land.

The isle of Ely, with the flats up the several rivers from Yarmouth to Norwich, Beccles, &c. the continued levels in the several counties of Norfolk, Cambridge, Suffolk, Huntingdon, Northampton, and Lincoln, may be supposed to contain as much land as the whole county of Norfolk: and it is not many ages since these counties were universally one vast morass or lough, and the few solid parts wholly unapproachable: insomuch that the town of Ely itself was a receptacle for the mal-contents of the kingdom, where no reasonable force could come to dislodge them.

Twelve or fourteen like places in England might be reckoned, as the moors in Somersetshire; the flat-shores in Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Durham; the like in Hampshire, and Sussex; in short, on the banks of every navigable river.

While this nation was thus full of lakes, stagnated waters, and moist places, they must have furnished the air with a quantity of matter for showers and storms infinitely more than it can be now supplied withal; those vast tracks of land being now fenced in, laid dry,

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dry, and turned into wholesome and profitable provinces.

Bogs in
Ireland.

This seems demonstrated from Ireland, where the multitude of lakes, bogs, and moist places, fill the air with vapours, which give themselves back again in showers; so as to occasion it to be called, the Piss-pot of the world.

Ancients
not skilful
in navigation.

But, the skill of those ages in the art of navigation being far short of what it is since arrived to, made these vast northern seas too terrible for them to venture in: and accordingly, they raised those apprehensions up to fable, which began only in their want of judgment.

The Phœnicians, who were our first navigators, the Genoese, and after them the Portuguese, who arrived to extraordinary proficiency in sea-affairs, were all of them (as we term it) fair-weather seamen: the chief of their navigation was coasting; and if they were driven out of their knowledge, had work enough to find their way home, and sometimes never found it at all: but one sea conveyed them directly into the last ocean, from whence no navigation could return them.

When these misadventures had at any time extended their voyaging as far as this island, (which they always performed round the coast of Spain, Portugal and France) if ever such a vessel returned, if ever the bold navigator

gator arrived at home, he had done enough to talk of all his days; and need no other diversion among his neighbours, than to give an account of the vast seas, mighty rocks, deep gulphs, and prodigious storms, he met with in these remote parts of the then known world. This magnified by the poetical arts of the learned men of the times, grew into a received maxim of navigation, that these parts were so full of tempests, storms and dangerous seas, that it was present death to come near them; and, that none but madmen and desperadoes would have any business there, since they were places where ships never came, and navigation was not proper.

The ancients had ridiculous notions of Britain.

Some have represented Britain as a place full of terrible monsters, and fit only for their habitation.

Such horrid apprehensions had those ages of these parts; which by experience, and the prodigy to which navigation in particular, and sciential knowledge in general, is since grown, appear very ridiculous.

We find no danger in our shores, no uncertain wavering in our tides, no frightful gulphs, no horrid monsters, but what the bold mariner has made familiar to him.

The gulphs which frightened those early sons of Neptune, are searched out by our seamen, and made useful bays, roads, and harbours of safety. The promontories which, running out into the sea, gave them terrible apprehensions

ensions of danger, are our safety, and make the sailors hearts glad, as they are the first lands they make when they are coming home from a long voyage; or as they are a good shelter, when in a storm our ships get under their lee.

Our shores are founded, the sands and flats are discovered, which they knew little or nothing of, and in which more real danger lies, than in all the frightful stories they told; useful sea-marks and land-figures are placed on the shore, buoys on the water, light-houses on the highest rocks; and all these dreadful parts of the world are become the seat of trade, and the center of navigation: art has reconciled all the difficulties, and use made all that was horrible and terrible in those ages, become as natural and familiar as day-light.

The hidden sands, almost the only real dread of a sailor, and by which (till the channels between them were found out) our eastern coasts must be really unpassable, now serve to make harbours: and Yarmouth road was made a safe place of shipping by them. Nay, when Portsmouth, Plymouth, and other good harbours, would not defend our ships in the violent tempest we are treating of, here was the least damage done of any place in England, considering the number of ships which lay at anchor, and the openness of the place.

Upon

Upon the whole, it seems plain, that all the dismal things the ancients told of Britain and her terrible shores, arose from the infancy of marine knowledge, and the weakness of the sailor's courage.

It is allowed we are more subject to bad weather and hard gales of wind than the coasts of Spain, Italy, and Barbary; but our improvement in the art of ship-building is so considerable, our vessels are so prepared, to ride out the most violent storms, that the fury of the sea is the least thing our sailors fear: keep them but from a lee-shore, or touching upon a sand, they will venture all the rest: and nothing is a greater satisfaction to them, when they have a storm in view, than a sound bottom and good sea-room.

Such winds as in those days would have passed for storms, are now called only a Fresh-gale, or Blowing hard. If it blows enough to fright a south-country sailor, we laugh at it.

The bald terms of our sailors, set down in a table of degrees, will better explain the meaning.

Stark calm,	A top-sail gale,
Calm weather,	Blows fresh,
Little wind,	A hard gale of wind,
A fine breeze,	A fret of wind,
A small gale,	A storm,
A fresh gale,	A tempest.

Half these tarpawlin articles would have passed in those days for a storm: that our
sailors

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sailors call a Top-sail gale, would have driven the navigators of those days into harbour : when our sailors reef a top-sail, they would have handed all their sails : when we go under a main course, they would have run afore it for life to the next port they could make : when our Hard Gale blows, they would have cried, A Tempest ! and about the Fret of wind, they would be all at their prayers.

If we should reckon by this account, we are a stormy country indeed ; our seas are no more navigable now for such sailors than they were then : if the Japonese, the East-Indians, and such navigators, were to come with their thin cockle-shell barks and callico sails ; if Cleopatra's fleet, or Cæsar's great ships with which he fought the battle of Actium, were to come upon our seas, there hardly comes a March or November in twenty years, but would blow them to pieces ; and then the poor remnant that got home would talk of a terrible country, where there is nothing but storms and tempests. No question but our ships ride out many a worse storm than that terrible tempest which scattered Julius Cæsar's fleet, or that which drove Æneas on the coast of Carthage.

Spanish
Armada.

In more modern times we have a remarkable instance in the famous Spanish Armada ; which, after it was rather frightened than damaged by sir Francis Drake's machines, (not then known by the name of fire-ships) was
scat-

scattered by a terrible storm, and lost upon every shore.

The case is plain, it was all owing to the accident of navigation: they had, no doubt, a hard gale of wind, perhaps a storm; but they were also on an enemy's coast; their pilots out of their knowledge; no harbour to run into; and an enemy a-stern; that when once they separated, fear drove them from one danger to another, and away they went to the northward, where they had nothing but God's mercy, and the winds and seas to help them. In all those storms and distresses which ruined that fleet, we do not find an account of the loss of one ship, either of the English or Dutch; the queen's fleet rode it out in the Downs, which all men know is none of the best roads in the world; and the Dutch rode among the flats of the Flemish coast, while the vast galleons, not so well fitted for the weather, were forced to keep the sea, and were driven to and fro till they were gotten out of their knowledge; and, like men desperate, embraced every danger they came near.

Although it is allowed, and histories are full of the particulars, that we have often very high winds, and sometimes violent tempests, in these northern parts of the world; yet such a tempest never happened before, as that which is the subject of these sheets: as will partly appear by comparing it with some ancient and modern accounts.

16 HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

CHAP. II.

Accounts of some Ancient and Modern STORMS.

*Fury on seas, on shores, the winds discharge;
Bound as they are, and circumscrib'd in place,
They rend the world, resistless where they pass;
And mighty marks of mischief leave behind.*

DRYDEN.

ALL histories are full of relations of storms and tempests, but since the universal deluge none appears to have been like that which happened November the 26th, 1703, either in violence, extent, duration, or dreadful effects.

All other storms and tempests have been gusts or squalls of wind, carried on in their proper channels, and spent in a shorter space.

In England we feel none of the hurricanes* of Barbados and Jamaica; the north-wests of Virginia; the terrible gusts of the Levant;

or

Atkins's
voyage to
Guinea. * Hurricanes are incredible tempests of wind, whose fury neither ships, masts, trees or buildings, are able to resist. They come a day or two before the new or full moon, next the autumnal equinox, and give warning by an unusual swell of water.

Grainger's
sugar-
cane, p.
69, &c. In the months of August and September, the Antilles are subject to hurricanes, the approaches of which are known by various prognostics; a dead calm, and intolerable

or the frequent tempests of the North Cape, When sir Charles Wheeler's Squadron perished at Gibraltar; when the city of Stralsund was ruined by a storm, England felt it not, nor was the air thereof disturbed by the motion. Even at home, we have had storms and violent winds in one part of the land, which have not been felt in another. In St. George's channel there are frequent storms at sea, right up and down the channel, which are not felt on either coast, though it is not

intolerable heat, with a great swell of the sea that rolls the vast waves from a great distance, and covers the shore with strange productions: or a lowering sky, with flying clouds, the short appearance of birds of various kinds about the stagnant pools; and the apparent terror of the cattle which gather together in troops, covered with a cold sweat, and fixing their eyes upon the pole, bellow in a frightful manner. The nearer approach of the storm is known by the sudden dispersion of the mists, the blood-like appearance of the sun, the stench of the pools and of the sea, and the sudden return of a thick vapour that produces darkness at noon day: then the north-wind rushes forth at once in a sudden blast, louder than a volley of ordnance, and attended with thunder, lightning and rain; this suddenly ceases in a dead calm, but a new hurricane in a short time blows from the West with yet greater violence; then, after sudden calms, the blasts are renewed from the South and East; canes, cattle, huts and mills are carried away, many houses are set on fire by the lightning, a muddy torrent is precipitated from the rocks, and, rushing through the streets with irresistible violence, carries away whatever it meets. Against this evil there is no effectual defence.

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above twenty leagues from the English to the Irish shore. Sir William Temple gives the particulars of two terrible storms in Holland whilst he was ambassador there ; in one, the cathedral church at Utrecht was utterly destroyed ; in the other forty-six vessels were lost in the Texel, and almost all the men drowned : neither of these storms were felt in England.

Tempests have been violent and furious in some places, and scarcely heard of in the next : but the storm of the terrible night of the 26th of November (which may well be called The Great Storm) shook all Europe, scattering ruin and desolation wherever it blew.—How much farther it extended than Europe,—He only knows who hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm. So dreadful and furious a storm of wind, where so many ships were lost at sea, such incredible mischief and damage done on land, is not to be paralleled in any history.

That this particular storm was the greatest, the longest in duration, and widest in extent, of all the tempests and storms history has recorded, will appear, by reviewing the manner in which the Almighty has been pleased to execute his judgments by storms and tempests in former times, and comparing them with the dreadful instance before us.

We are informed by sacred history, that God made a wind to pass over the deluged earth,

Bp. of
Norwich
bef. the
Lords,
Dec. 8,
1721.

Gen. viii.
1.

earth, and the waters were assuaged : a stop was put to the flood, and the waters were reduced to their proper channel.

What that was, which mingled with violent lightnings, set on fire Sodom, Gomorrha, and all the cities of the plain, remains undecided ; except that we are assured, that on the ungodly God raineth snares, fire and brimstone, storm, and an horrible tempest.

Psal. xi. 6.
both translations
compared.

It was scarce an entire calm, when the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east-wind all night, insomuch that the waters were divided : but it was certainly a great storm the next morning, when the sea returned to its strength, so suddenly, that the flying Egyptians were overthrown in the midst of it : the waters covered the chariots and the horsemen, Pharaoh and all his host ; there remained not so much as one of them.

Exod. xiv.
21, 27,
28.

—*The waters saw God and were afraid, the depths also were troubled.*

Psalms
lxxvii. 16.

When Jonah fled, the Lord sent out a great wind, and there was a mighty tempest.

Jonah i.
3, 4.

When he whom the winds and the sea obey, was asleep on ship-board, there arose a great tempest, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves and raging water.

Matt. viii.
24, 27.
Mark, iv.
37.
Luke, viii.
23.

When Jesus had constrained his disciples to get into a ship, the sea arose, by reason of a great wind that blew ; contrary winds tossed their ship with waves in the midst of

Matt. xiv.
22, &c.
Mark, vi.
45, &c.

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John, vi. 16, &c. the sea; the wind was strong and boisterous, insomuch that the disciples were afraid, even in the presence of their Lord.

Acts, xxvi. 14, 20. When the apostle Paul was ship-wrecked, there arose a tempestuous wind called Euroclydon*; their ship could not bear up into the wind; they were exceedingly tossed with the tempest; insomuch that all hope that they should be saved was taken away.

How general soever the storm might be at the deluge, the other tempests recorded in scripture were confined within very small tracks; and their effects designed only to make God's great power to be known.

The ancient heathens had among their gods those which presided over storms: agreeably to which we find,

The Romans looking upon storms and tempests as deities, or at least imagining they had deities which produced them, paid them divine honours.

Univ. Hist. xvii. 510. Lucius Scipio was attacked by a tempest on the coast of Corsica, in which his whole fleet was in the most imminent danger of being lost; upon account of his deliverance therefrom he built a temple, which he dedicated to the Tempests, that is, to the deities presiding over them; as he had great reason to do, says a very ancient inscription.

Univ. Hist. xiv. 439. In the reign of the emperor Nero, the country of Campania was ravaged with dread-

* North-east Michaelmas Flawes. Hammond, 432. ful

ful tempests and violent whirlwinds; whole villages were overturned; plantations were turned up, and the fruits of the earth scattered.

Anno Christi 590, the first year of pope Gregory, happened a marvellous overflowing in Italy, accompanied with most dreadful storms of thunder and lightning. Ray's
Dic. 222.
Collier's
Dic.

In 1557, there was so great a flood and dreadful tempest in the south of Languedoc, that all the people attended therein the end of the world and day of judgment. Divers heaps and mountains of ground were removed, and many places torn up and rent; by which accident there were found both coin of silver and gold, divers pieces of plate, and vessels of other metals, supposed to be hid when the Goths invaded that province. Ray's
Dic. 223.

Having viewed some storms at a distance, let us look at home, our island being supposed to be more subject to tempests than other parts of the world.

Anno 1095, in the reign of king William Rufus, there happened an outrageous wind, which bore down in the city of London alone, six hundred houses, and blew off the roof of Bow-church, which, with the beams, were blown into the air a great height, six whereof, being twenty-seven feet long, with their fall were driven twenty-three feet deep into the ground; the streets of the city being then unpaved. Ray's
Dic. 126.
from
Stowe.

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The following account nearly respecting English affairs, is inserted, though the storm happened in France.

Echard,
i. 371.
Rapin, i.
431.

As king Edward the third, in the year 1360, lay encamped about Chartres in France, a sudden and dreadful storm arose, accompanied with thunder, and hail of a prodigious size, which killed six thousand of his horses, and about one thousand men. Lord Morley was killed; the earl of Warwick's son mortally wounded, and died soon after.

So extraordinary an accident was deemed by the troops a demonstration of divine displeasure: the king was so much of the same opinion, as, in the midst of the storm, on his knees, to make a vow to consent to an equitable peace.

Stowe.

The same year, and in 1362, there was great wind in divers parts of England attended with thunders and lightnings; whereby many men and beasts perished; many steeples and towers were thrown down.

Stowe.

December 28th, in the eighth year of queen Elizabeth, there arose a great storm and tempest of wind, by rage whereof the Thames and sea overwhelmed many persons; the great gates at the west-end of St. Paul's church at London (between which stood a brazen pillar) were by the force of the wind blown open.

The

The following relation, not commonly mentioned by historians, is extracted from a pamphlet written soon after the event, and preserved in the *Harleian library*.

On *Tuesday January 27, 1607*, about nine in the morning, *the sunne being fayrly and bryghtly spred* huge and mighty hills of water were seen in the elements, tumbling one over another, in such sort as if the greatest mountains in the world had overwhelmed the lowest vallies, to the inexpressible astonishment and terror of the spectators; who at first mistaking it for a great mist or fog, did not on the sudden prepare to make their escape from it: but on its nearer approach, which came on with such swiftnes as it was verily thought the fowls of the air could not fly so fast; they perceived that it was the violence of the waters of the raging seas, which seemed to have broken their bounds, and were pouring in to deluge the whole land, and then happy were they that could fly the fastest. But so violent and swift were the huge waves, and they pursuing one another with such rapidity, that in less than five hours space most part of the countries on the *Severn* banks were laid under water, and many hundreds of men, women and children perished in the floods. From the hills might be seen herds of cattle, and flocks of sheep, with husbandmen labouring in the fields, all swept away together, and swallowed up in

Inunda-
tion.

Severn
banks laid
under
water.

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one dreadful inundation. Houses, barns, ricks of corn and hay, were all involved in the common ruin. Many who were rich in the morning, were beggars before noon, and several perished in endeavouring to save their effects.

Bristol and *Aust* suffered terribly; and all the country from *Bristol* to *Gloucester* on both sides the *Severn*, was overflowed to the distance of six miles, and most of the bridges over it, and the adjacent buildings were destroyed or defaced. At *Chepstow*, *Goldclift*, *Matherne*, *Calcott-Moor*, *Redritt*, *Newport*, *Cardiffe*, *Cowbridge*, *Swansey*, *Langborne*, and many other places in *Glamorganshire*, *Monmouthshire*, *Caermarthenshire*, and *Cardiganshire*, the water raged so furiously, and came on so fast, that upon a moderate supposition, there could not be so few persons drowned as five hundred, men, women, and children; beside many thousand herd of cattle that were feeding in the vallies, together with sheep, hogs, horses, and even poultry, all of which were suddenly immersed in the waters, and could not escape.

But what is still more strange, there are now not only found floated upon the waters still remaining, the dead carcasses of men and cattle, but also all kinds of wild beasts, as foxes, hares, rabbits, rats, &c. some of them upon one another's back, as thereby thinking to have saved themselves.

At a place in *Merionethshire* there was a maid a-milking, who was so suddenly surrounded with the waters that she could not escape, but had just time to reach a high bank, on which she stood secure from the inundation, but without any relief from hunger and cold, for two days; several ways were devised to bring her off, but in vain; till at length two young men contrived a raft, which, with long poles, they pushed along, and with great labour and hazard fetched her away, half dead with fear rather than with hunger and cold; for, strange as it is to relate, the hill or bank on which the maid stood, was all so covered over with wild beasts and vermin that came thither for safety, that she had much ado to keep them from creeping upon her; and, though among them there were many of opposite natures, as dogs and foxes, hares and hounds, cats and rats, with others of like sort, yet the one never once offered to annoy the other; but, in a gentle sort they freely enjoyed the liberty of life without the least expression of enmity, or appearance of natural ferocity.

Glamorgan, Caermarthen, Cardigan, and other countries in *South Wales*, bore their part in this dreadful visitation; many, to save their lives, ascended hills, trees, steeples, and houses, where they might see their cattle, and sometimes their wives and children, per-
rish,

26 HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

rish, without being able to give them the least assistance.

Cardiff. At *Cardiff*, a great part of the church next the river, was carried away by the violence of the flood.

Children at schools, and travellers upon the road, were equally involved in this general calamity ; if they fled to the house-tops, or to the tops of hills, they were alike in danger of perishing by hunger and cold ; but many were involved before they were aware of their danger. Some, indeed, escaped miraculously : in *Glamorganshire*, a blind man that had been long bed-ridden, had his poor cottage swept away ; and himself, bed and all, carried into the open field, where, being ready to perish in two fathom water, his hand, by providence, chanced upon the rafter of a house, and by the force of the wind, then blowing easterly, he was driven to land, and so escaped. In another place, a boy five years old being upheld a long time upon the water by means of his long coats, that continued hollow about him, was at length carried to land, by taking fast hold of the fleece of a dead sheep that came floating by him just when he was ready to sink. A mother and three children were saved in *Caermarthenshire* by means of a trough in which the mother used to make her bread. Many more there were that through the handy-work of God were preserved : but there were
not

not so many so strangely saved, but there were as many in number as strangely drowned.

What follows is in the author's own words :

“ The lowe marshes and fenny groundes neere *Barnstable* in the county of *Devon* were overflowne so farre out, and in such outrageous sort that the countrey all along to *Bridgewater* was greatly distressed thereby, and much hurt there done ; it is a most pitifull sight to beholde what numbers of fat oxen there were drowned ; what flocks of sheepe, what herde of kine have been lost. There is little now remaining there to be seene but huge waters like to the maine ocean : the tops of churches and steeples like to the tops of rocks in the sea ; great reekes of fodder for cattle are floating like ships upon the water, and dead beastes swimming thereon, now past feading on the same. The tops of trees a man may behold remaining aboue the waters, upon whose braunches multitudes of al kind of turkies, hens, and other such like poultry, were faine to fly up to saue their liues, where many of them perished for want of reliefe, not being able to fly to dry laund by reason of their weaknes.

“ This mercilesse water, breaking into the bosome of the firme laund, has proued a fearful punishment as wel to al other liuing creatures as also to al mankinde ; which, if it had not bin for the mercifull promise of God,

at

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at the last dissolution of the world by water, by the signe of the rain-bowe, which is still shewed vs, we might haue uerily believed this time had bin the uery hour of Christ his coming. From which element of water extended towards us in this fearfull manner good Lord deliuer vs al, Amen."——

Reign K.
Ch. 55.
Echard,
ii. 21.

June 8, 1626, (2 Car.) was a strange and surprizing spectacle on the Thames, the water near Lambeth Marsh began about three o'clock in the afternoon to be very turbulent, which, after a turbulent motion of the waters, arose like an exhalation, and appeared of a circular form of about ten yards diameter, and as many feet elevated from the river. This cataract, or spout of water, was carried impetuously cross the river, and made a very furious assault upon the garden walls of Yorkhouse, where the duke of Buckingham then resided, and was building his new water stairs, after which it broke asunder with a fuliginous and dusky smoke, like that of a furnace, or a brewer's chimney, and gradually ascended as high as well discernable, till it quite vanished, to the great admiration of the spectators. At the same instant there happened in the city such a dreadful storm of rain and hail, with terrible claps of thunder, that a great part of the church-yard walls of St. Andrew's in Holborn fell down, several graves were laid open, and many coffins tumbled into the midst of the street.

The

The third of September 1658, (the time the protector Oliver Cromwell died) was ushered in with the most prodigious storm of wind that ever had been known; all the elements seemed concerned in it. Great numbers of trees and houses were overthrown; great wrecks at sea were made: the effects of the tempest were terrible in France, the Netherlands, and foreign countries, where all people trembled at it. Beside wrecks along the coasts, many boats were cast away in the rivers.

Clarend.
iii. 648.
Echard,
i. 825.

In 1661, Tuesday February 18th was a very great storm, accounted the greatest had been known before: it was universal in England, but the damages in France and Holland were inconsiderable, compared to the awful and tremendous judgment in 1703.

Storm,
anno
1661.

Very early in the morning began a dreadful storm of wind, accompanied with thunder, lightning, hail, and rain, (which in many places was as salt as brine) which continued with unusual violence till almost midnight: A volume would not contain a narrative of the sad effects thereof throughout the kingdom: Some so stupendous and amazing, that the report of them will scarcely gain credit.

1. The storm occasioned many accidents and loss of human lives, both in the metropolis and various parts of the country.

Mischief
to persons.

2. The wind prejudiced many churches.

Churches
At damaged.

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At Tewkesbury, a fair window in the church, glass and stone work, was blown down; the doors blown open; much of the lead torn up, and part of a pinnacle blown down.

At Red-Marly and Newin, a considerable part of the churches were blown down; and most of the publick meeting places in the city of Gloucester.

Some hundreds of pounds damage was done to the cathedral at Worcester.

Great damage was done to the churches of Hereford.

The like happened at Leighton Beau-desert and at Eaton-Soken in Bedfordshire; at which last place, a new erected stone cross was blown down, and the town sustained other great damages.

The steeples, and other parts of the churches of Shenley, Waddon and Woolston in the county of Bucks, were much torn and rent by the wind.

The spire of the steeple at Tinchinfield in Essex was blown down, brake through the body of the church, crushed the pews, and did other damage, to the value of some hundred pounds.

At Ipswich, the famous spire or pinnacle of the Tower-church was blown down upon the body of the church, and fell reversed, the sharp end of the shaft striking through the leads on the south side of the church, carried

carried much of the timber work down before it into the alley just behind the pulpit; and took off one side of the sounding-board, shattering the pews. The weather-cock, and iron on which it stood, broke as it fell; but the narrowest part of the wood-work, upon which the vane stood, fell into the alley, broke quite through a grave-stone, and ran shoring through two coffins one under another: that part of the spire which was plucked up, was about three yards deep in the earth; and some part of it was believed to be left behind in the ground.

3. Great prejudice and mischief was done to private houses; the instances would be tedious to relate: many were blown down, others extremely shattered and torn. Houses damaged.

The earl of Suffolk's house at Audley-End, near Saffron-Waldon in Essex, was damaged to above the value of five thousand pounds; and great part of the Crown-office in the Temple was blown down. Audley-End.

4. There was a wonderful destruction of barns, barns; and out-houses too numerous to specify.

5. We shall single out two or three of the most remarkable passages relating to trees. Trees.

In Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, and Herefordshire, many lost whole orchards of fruit trees, amounting to forty and fifty pounds an orchard; and the like damage proportionably sustained throughout the kingdom.

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As to other trees, there was a great destruction in many places; several at Hampton-court; above three thousand brave oaks in a particular part of the forest of Dean; in a little grove at Ipswich, upward of two hundred goodly trees, one of which was an ash, which had ten load of wood upon it: in Brampton-Bryan park in Herefordshire, above thirteen hundred trees were blown down; and above six hundred in Hopton-park, not far from it: and proportionably in other places where the storm was felt.

The damages sustained, on all accounts, by this storm, were not to be estimated; but discreet people have computed the loss of the counties one with another, by the destruction of houses and barns, the blowing away hovels and ricks of corn, the falling of trees, &c. at about two millions sterling.

Wonder-
ful parti-
culars.

6. There were other wonderful particulars, which call for observation.

The water in the Thames, and other places, was, in a very strange manner, blown up into the air. The fish were blown out of the canal in St. James's park, and lay on the bank-side.

At Mortlack in Surry, the birds, attempting to fly, were beaten to the ground by the violence of the wind.

At Epping in Essex, a very great oak was blown down, which of itself raised again, and grew firmly.

At

At Taunton, a great tree was blown down, the upper part of which rested upon a wall; after a little time, by the force of the wind, the lower part of the tree was blown quite over the wall.

In Hereford, several persons were borne up from the ground; one man at least six yards.

The great vane at Whitehall, and one on the White-Tower, were blown down, and two others strangely bent.

The triumphal arches in London, and the heads upon Westminster-hall, were blown down, but no persons hurt by the fall of them.

Most astonishing lightning accompanied this storm, by which part of Whitehall was set on fire, and above eight houses were burnt at Greenwich. Mirabilis Annis.

Of fifty three Dutch ships which were in the Texel in a great storm March 2, 1662, but seven returned safe; the rest were either so cast away, or so dispersed as not to be found; most of them very richly laden, five ships were lost in the Vly, and many others shattered almost to pieces. Ann. Univ. 69.

January 27, 1665, about seven in the morning, there happened a dreadful storm at Coventry, accompanied with thunder and lightning, (and some imagined they felt an earthquake), that among other considerable damages, threw down the stately spire of London Gazette, No. 22.
D Trinity

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Trinity steeple, even to the very battlements, which falling on the east and north-east parts of the church, battered the roof, rent the whole fabric, and made lamentable havock, to the damage of many thousand pounds.

The latter end of the year 1665 was exceeding stormy in many parts of Europe.

Deal,
1665.

At Deal, November 14, 15, 16, 17, both night and day, there were violent storms of wind and hail, the like was beyond the memory of man: Many ships and boats were lost, near Deal, Newcastle, Yarmouth, Falmouth, &c. At Deal, the spring-tide washed away and stranded boats, and did other considerable damage to the houses and keys on the Beach. A storm falling in with the spring-tide, so raised the water in the haven of Yarmouth, that it overflowed the banks, and laid all the marsh grounds under water, for eight or ten miles. Twenty colliers miscarried within twenty miles of Yarmouth.

Dover.

A thing not unworthy knowledge happened at Dover: a prize of sir Arthur Slingsbey's was so beaten by the waves, that the master and three of his men were washed over-board, by one sea, and another threw them into their ship again with a dead man in their company; a third sea carried away the dead man, and left them hanging to the ropes.

Hull.

Several vessels were lost at Hull, and four hundred pounds damage done to the ships in the harbour.

The

The wind brought in such a tide at Lyn-^{Lyn-}
Regis, that the goods in low rooms received ^{Regis.}
considerable damage; some thousands of
sheep were drowned in the marshes there-
about.

In Lincolnshire, the sea broke the banks in ^{Lincoln-}
marsh land in two places, which did that ^{shire.}
county very great harm.

At Wells, ten loaden colliers were driven ^{Wells.}
ashore against that town, the ships bulged;
more colliers were put ashore between that
place and Blackney.

The storm was so violent at Cowes in the ^{Cowes.}
isle of Wight, that the keys and several houses
were washed away; many small vessels were
lost, and most of the great ones drove on
shore.

The Dutch suffered much by shipwrecks ^{Holland}
in this storm, and the Flanders coasts had ^{and Flan-}
their share in the misfortune. ^{ders.}

September 3, 4, 5, the storm dispersed the ^{Annals of}
Dutch fleet, some merchant-men were driven ^{Univ.}
into the *Elve*; others, with some men of ^{131.}
war, driven into *Uleckery*; and in this distress
some others were taken by the English.

Deal, November 24 and 25, was one con-
tinued storm of wind, and higher tides than ^{Deal,}
any time that year. The sea broke in dur- ^{wind and}
ing the night of the 25th, near Sandwich, ^{high tide.}
where one man had above an hundred sheep
drowned, and others suffered considerable
damage. The sea threw up several cap-

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stones and keys, and broke up part of the Beech-street. The two tides were said, by the ancientest men of the place, to be the highest and most violent that ever were known.

Land-guard point.

At Landguard-point fort, the winds and tides were so high, that the water was almost two yards high in the cellars within the fort, and very near as high as the wall without; and several dead bodies were cast on shore.

Ostend.

At Ostend, a hoy was cast upon the land half a mile from the ordinary high water marks; the magistrates of the town gave order she should remain entire in the place where she was left ashore.

Admiral Sweerts.

The Dutch ships under rear admiral Sweerts, that lay in the Dogger-sands, were forced home by the violence of the storms, extremely damaged, especially that in which Sweerts was, and two others who had spent all their masts; the remaining eight were separated in the storm. The Rotterdam was lost, men saved. The storm caused almost a general inundation in Holland. The dyke was broke down at Durgendam, above twenty feet broad and forty feet deep, and much cattle lost. In the Helder many houses, with the new sconce, washed away. Shevelingen was all water, trees tore up by the roots, and several houses thrown down; the church, with the rest, every minute expected.

Holland.

pected to be levelled with the water. In the Texel and the Vly some ships were utterly lost, with all their men; those who escaped best were most miserably torn in their masts and rigging. About Groningen their dams were overthrown in several places, and both men and beasts swept away by the violence of the floods. In other parts of Holland the damage was not less, a great track was overflowed as high as Furemerend, the Moerdyke, Kieldyke, and the Glunderdyke, near Williamstadt, being broken, whereby not less than an hundred villages were destroyed, a loss not repaired with less than many millions.

The great storm did much harm in all parts of France. At the mouth of the Charente a very good ship of the king's of fifty four guns was lost; pieces of ships and goods were every where found upon that coast.

The tide breaking in at Dover, Mrs. Nephew's daughter with two children, in a close boarded bed, did swim near to the ceiling of the house, and sinking down again with the tide, were all preserved. Dover.

In the storm, the Dutch had herrings in their villages, and store of other fish swimming in their streets. A ship from North Bergen to the Vly was driven by the storm so far upon the land, that she had much ado, with sails and other helps, to get off. Dutch.
Holland.

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the ships in the Vly but two could save their masts, and several were quite lost. The timber-work of Campveers harbour, together with the stone-work next adjacent to the Town-port, almost all torn away; three or four distinct poldacs near it covered with sea. The dyke of Slader near Sparendam, a mile from Harlem, carried away. Many dykes in East-Friesland, and that between Shellinwam and Duringdam, over against Amsterdam, quite broken down. Waterland, a part of East-Friesland, and Blanckenberg, lay all under water; the damages caused in the cellars and warehouses in Amsterdam alone were reckoned at many millions. Upon serious computation, the Dutch judged their losses by the inundation amounted to as much as the whole charge of the war both by land and sea.

Amster-
dam.

At Copenhagen happened an accident which staggered all the philosophers in those parts, and was looked upon as little less than a miracle: The sea, in one night wholly forsook the town, so much that the greatest ships did lie all dry in the harbour, and yet the next morning the waters rose higher than ever they were known before, they never using to rise or fall above two or three feet in that northern sea; at the time when this happened, there was scarcely a breath of wind stirring, that might be supposed to contribute to this uncommon accident,

Copenha-
gen.

The

The Sea-horfe of Middleburgh, a ship ^{Ireland.} between seven and eight hundred tons, run ashore in the county of Mayo in Ireland, having in her, arms, and six chests of silver; she was much beaten at sea by storm, having spent her main-mast and fore-mast, and lost her rudder on the rocks near Broad-haven. The ship was beaten to pieces and sunk; about an hundred of her men escaped on planks, and by such shifts; the rest, about seventy-four, were all drowned. Some goods were cast up by the sea, and part of the silver and guns. A Dutch Guinea ship run a-ground near Duncannon, and two other ships were lost on the same coast.

The high tides washing down the cliffs about Winterton, there were found several ^{Winterton.} vast bones, particularly a leg bone was carried to Yarmouth, weighing fifty-seven pounds three quarters, the length three feet two inches; which the physicians and surgeons affirmed to be the leg-bone of a man.

The storms and tempests were so great ^{Gazettes.} and violent about Middleburgh, that they ^{Middleburgh.} forced down one of the great wooden bridges in that town, and another at Sluys; by ^{Sluys.} which many persons were drowned, and divers mortally wounded.

Sir William Temple gives short accounts of two storms he felt in Holland.

In 1674, I staid only a night Antwerp, ^{Antwerp.} which passed with so great thunders and
 D 4 lightnings,

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lightnings, that I promised myself a very fair day after it, to go back again to Rotterdam, in the state's yacht. The morning proved so; but toward evening the sky grew foul, and the seamen presaged ill weather, and so resolved to lie at anchor before Bergen op Zoom, the wind being cross, and little. When the night was fallen as black as ever I saw, it soon began to clear up, with the most violent flashes of lightning, as well as cracks of thunder, that I believe have ever been heard in our age and climate. This continued all night; and we felt such a great heat from every flash of lightning, that the captain apprehended it would fire his ship. But about eight the next morning the wind changed, and came up with so strong a gale, that we came to Rotterdam in about four hours, and there found all mouths full of the mischiefs and accidents that the last night's tempest had occasioned, both among the boats and the houses, by the thunder, lightning, hail, or whirlwinds. But the day after came stories to the Hague from all parts, of such violent effects as were almost incredible: at Amsterdam they were deplorable; many trees torn up by the roots, ships sunk in the harbour, and boats in the channels; houses beaten down, and several people snatched from the ground as they walked the streets, and thrown into the canals. But all was silenced by the relations from Utrecht, where the

Rotterdam.

Utrecht.

the great and ancient cathedral was torn to pieces by the violence of the storm ; and the vast pillars of stone that supported it, were wreathed like a twisted club, having been so strongly composed and cemented, as rather to suffer such a change of figure than break in pieces, as other parts of the fabric did ; hardly any church in the town escaped the violence of the storm ; and very few houses without the marks of it ; nor were the effects of it less astonishing by the relations from France ^{France.} and Bruffels, where the damages were infi- ^{Bruffels.} nite ; as well from whirlwinds, thunder, lightning, as from hail-stones of prodigious bigness.

In November 1675, happened a storm at North-west, with a spring-tide so violent, as gave apprehensions of some loss irrecoverable to the province of Holland, and by several breaches in the great dykes near Enchusen, ^{Harlem.} and others between Amsterdam and Harlem, ^{Inunda-} made way for such inundations as had not ^{tions.} been seen before by any man then alive, and filled the country with most deplorable events. — But the incredible diligence and unanimous endeavours of the people upon such occasions, gave a stop to the fury of that element, and made way for recovering next year all the lands, though the people, cattle, and houses lost, were irrecoverable. —

At Tortorica in Sicily, on the sixth of June, 1682, about seven o'clock in the evening

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ing (after so great a darkness that no object could be distinguished at the distance of four paces) there arose such a great storm of rain, thunder and lightning, (which lasted six and thirty hours) that about one o'clock next morning great torrents of water caused by the rains fell down from the neighbouring mountains with such rapidity that they carried with them trees of an extraordinary bigness, which threw down the walls and houses of the town they happened to beat against. The waters overthrew the church of St. Nicholas; and the archdeacon of the town, who retired thither, perished, with many other persons; there remaining but one abbey, and about fifty houses, and those so shattered that they fell one after another. There were about six hundred of the inhabitants drowned; the rest being abroad in the field gathering their silk, fled to the mountains, where they suffered very much for want of provisions. The goods, trees, stone, sand, and other rubbish, which the waters carried away, were in so great abundance, that they made a bank above the water two miles in length, near the mouth of the river, where before the sea was very deep. The towns of Randazzo, Francaville, and several others were likewise destroyed.

Ray's
disc. 223,
from
Gazette,
No. 1742.
Randazzo.
Francaville.

Boisterous and outrageous winds raise up great hills or downs of sands: Such we see all along the coasts of the Low Countries,

and the western shores of England, and the like places. They sometimes blow up so much sand, and drive it so far as to cover the adjacent countries, and to mar whole fields, ^{Ray's} _{disc. 225.} nay, to bury towns and villages: They are concurrent causes of those huge bulks and shelves of sand that are so dangerous to mariners, bar up havens, and ruin port-towns.

CHAP. III.

Of the GREAT STORM in 1703.

THE forementioned storms were very furious, but are not to be compared with the formidable one in 1703, either in violence, extent, or desolation occasioned thereby.

Our island first received the impressions of the violent motion, and its terrible effects: it carried a direct line clear over the continent of Europe, traversed England, France, Germany, the Baltic Sea; and passing the northern continent of Sweden, Finland, Muscovy, and part of Tartary, lost itself in the Northern Ocean, among vast mountains of ice, and huge drifts of snow. ^{Storm in} _{1703.}

So high the winds blew, before what we call The Storm, that had not that intolerable tempest followed, those would have been accounted

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accounted extraordinary high winds: for a fortnight no ship stirred out of harbour; and all vessels out at sea, endeavoured to make some port, or other shelter.

What were the effects of this impetuous storm, before our island felt its fury, none can tell! Those who had the misfortune to meet it in its first approach, were directly hurried by its irresistible force into eternity. Seventeen ships foundered in the ocean. This loss was much less than it might have been; for the wind having blown with great fury, at the same point, for fourteen days before the violence grew to its more uncommon height, all the ships newly gone to sea, were forced back; some driven into Portsmouth and Falmouth, who had been an hundred and fifty leagues at sea; others, which had been farther, took shelter in Ireland.

Why so
little da-
mage
done in
the open
sea.

The ships which were homeward bound, and within five hundred leagues of the English shore, were hurried so furiously before the wind, that they reached their port before the extremity of the storm came on; so that the sea was, as it were, swept clean of all shipping; those which were coming home, were blown home before their time; those which attempted to put to sea, were driven back again, in spite of all their skill and courage: the wind had blown so very hard directly into the channel, that there was no
pos-

possibility of those keeping the sea, whose course was not right before the wind.

These two circumstances had filled all our ports with unusual fleets, just come home, or outward bound: the loss and havock among them was very terrible! such as no circumstance had paralleled, or age experienced.

In the previous storm, a man of war was lost off Harwich; but most of her men saved.

The Russia fleet, of near an hundred sail, then upon the coast, was absolutely dispersed and scattered; some got into Newcastle, Hull, and Yarmouth roads; two foundered at sea; some run a-shore and were lost: *The Reserve*, (their convoy) foundered in Yarmouth roads; all her men lost; and no boat from shore durst go off to relieve her, though in the day-time.

Four hundred laden colliers (deep and unweildy) putting out of the *Tine*, met with hard measure: some got into the Humber, and were afterward lost there; some got shelter under the high lands of *Cromer*, and the northern shores of Norfolk: but the greater number reached Yarmouth roads.

When the great storm came, the ports round the sea coast of England were exceedingly full of ships of all sorts: a brief account whereof take as follows:

At Grimsby, Hull, and other roads of the Humber, lay about eighty sail, great and small,

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small, of which about fifty were colliers; and part of the Russia fleet.

Yarmouth
roads.

In Yarmouth roads there rode at least four hundred sail, being most of them laden colliers, Russia-men, and coasters from Lynn and Hull.

Thames.

In the Thames; at the Nore lay about twelve sail of the queen's hired ships and and store ships, and only two men of war. At Gravesend there rode five East-India-men, all outward bound.

Sir Clou-
desley
Shovel.

Sir Cloudesley Shovel was just arrived from the Mediterranean with the royal navy: part of them lay at St. Helen's, part in the Downs, and with twelve of the largest ships he was coming round the foreland, to bring them into Chatham; and when the great storm began was at an anchor at the Gunfleet, from whence the Association was driven off to sea as far as the coast of Norway.

Associa-
tion.

Downs.

In the Downs one hundred and sixty sail of merchant-ships outward bound, beside that part of the fleet which came in with sir Cloudesley, which consisted of about eighteen men of war, with tenders and victuallers.

Portf-
mouth
and
Cower.
Admiral
Dilks.

At Portsmouth and Cowes there lay three fleets; first, a fleet of transports and tenders, who with admiral Dilks brought the forces from Ireland that were to accompany the king of Spain to Lisbon; secondly, a great fleet of victuallers, tenders, store-ships, and transports, which lay ready for the same voyage,

voyage, together with about forty merchant-ships who lay for benefit of their convoy; and the third article was, the remainder of the grand fleet which came in with sir Cloudefley Shovel; in all, near three hundred, great and small.

In Plymouth sound, Falmouth and Milford havens, were particularly, several small fleets of merchant-ships, driven in for shelter and harbour from the storm, most homeward bound from the islands and colonies of America.

Plymouth
sound.

The Virginia fleet, Barbadoes fleet, and some East-India-men, lay scattered in all our ports; and in Kinsale in Ireland there lay near eighty sail, homeward bound, and richly laden.

Kinsale
in Ireland.

At Bristol, about twenty sail of homeward bound West-India-men not yet unladen.

Bristol.

In Holland, the fleet of transports for Lisbon waited for the king of Spain; and several English men of war lay at Helvoetsluys; the Dutch fleet from the Texel lay off Cadzandt, with their forces on board, under admiral Callenberge: both these fleets made one hundred eighty sail.

Holland.

Cadzandt.
Admiral
Callen-
berge.

Hardly was there a juncture of time when an accident of this nature could have happened, that so much shipping, laden out and home, ever was in port at one time.

It will appear no wonder that the damages of this nation were so great, to those
who

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who consider these unhappy circumstances : it will rather be a wonder to posterity that there were no more disasters, and that the navigation of the nation came off so well.

It is a wonderful thing to consider, especially in the Downs and Yarmouth roads, that any thing should be safe : all men that know how dangerous a road the first is, and what crouds of ships lay in the last ; how almost every vessel quitted the road, where neither anchor nor cable could hold ; must wonder what shift, or what course, the mariners could direct themselves to for safety.

Some which had not a mast standing, nor an anchor or cable left them, went out to sea, wherever the winds drove them ; and lying like a trough in the water, wallowed about till the winds abated ; and after were driven, some into one port, some into another, as providence guided them.

Paris
Gazette,
excused.

Therefore people excused the extravagancies of the Paris Gazetteer, who affirmed, that thirty thousand seamen, and three hundred sail of ships, were lost in the several ports of England : which was no improbable conjecture ; considering the multitude of shipping, the openness of the roads in the Downs, Yarmouth, and the Nore, and the prodigious fury of the wind.

Pref. to
Storm in
1661.

The sad effects of the strange and unusual violence of that night, throughout the nation, are so many, that a very great volume would
not

not be sufficient to contain the narrative of them. Some of them are so stupendous and amazing, that the report of them, from the most authentic hands, will scarcely obtain credit among any, but those who have an affectionate sense of the unlimited power of the Almighty.

Some few of those wonderful effects are here briefly related, as the accounts were received from persons of most unquestionable credit in the several parts of the nation.

Though this subject may be more safely extended than in any other case, no story being capable of being crowded with such circumstances, yet Infinite Power, concerned in every relation, is more than sufficient to make good the most wonderful particulars: but here is no trespassing on facts, to oblige Infinite Power to shew more miracles than were intended: for when nature was put into such confusion, and the surface of the earth and sea felt such extraordinary disorder, innumerable accidents fell out which may never more be seen.

When Heaven itself lays down the doctrine by such wonderful circumstances, all men are summoned to make applications: God gave, in this terrible manner, strong evidence of his own Being; none who felt the blasts of the tempest could be so hardened to deny the possibility of a Supreme Being: none but must feel some shocks from the convulsions

E

of

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of nature, and whose soul must tremble, as well as his house, and his frightened conscience cry out, What is the matter in the world? Doubtless there is a God, who ruleth in heaven, and in earth, and in all deep places.

The end of this essay being to convey the memory of the most dreadful and universal judgment that ever Almighty Power thought fit to bring upon this part of the world, possibly it may be read with pleasure for the sake of the truth contained in it, notwithstanding that pleasure may be mixed with terror, and astonishment!

A general View of the STORM, in 1703.

BEFORE we come to examine the damage suffered this terrible night, and give particular relation of its dismal effects; it may not be unnecessary to give a summary account of the thing itself, with some of its affrighting circumstances.

It had blown exceeding hard for fourteen days before, infomuch that it was thought terrible weather: stacks of chimnies were blown down, several ships lost, the tiles in many places blown off the houses; but the nearer it approached the fatal 26th of November, the tempestuous weather increased.

Wednes-
day, 24th.

The 24th in the morning it was fair weather; blew hard, but not to give any apprehensions, till, about four in the afternoon, the

the wind increased, and with squalls of rain and terrible gusts blew very furiously. Abundance of mischief was done that night: the wind continued with unusual violence all the next day and night; and had not the GREAT STORM followed so soon, that had passed for a Great Wind.

Thurs-
day, 25th.

The 26th in the morning it continued to blow exceeding hard, but not to give apprehensions of danger within doors; toward night it increased. About ten the barometers gave information that the night would be very tempestuous, the mercury sinking lower than had been observed before.

Friday,
26th.

It did not blow so hard, till twelve o'clock at night, but that most families went to bed; though many of them with some concern at the terrible wind: but about one, or at least by two, few people, that were capable of any sense of danger, were so hardy as to lie in bed: the fury of the tempest increased to such degree, that most people expected the fall of their houses.

And yet, in this general apprehension, nobody durst quit their tottering habitations; for whatever the danger was within doors, it was worse without; the bricks, tiles and stones, from the tops of the houses, flew with such force, and so thick in the streets, that no one thought fit to venture out, though their houses were nearly demolished.

Such a shock was given to a well-built brick house in the skirts of the city, by a stack of chimnies falling on the next houses; that the inhabitants imagined it was just coming down upon their heads; but opening the door to attempt an escape into a garden, the danger was so apparent, that they all thought fit to surrender to the disposal of Almighty Providence, and expect their graves in the ruins of their house, rather than meet most certain destruction in the open garden; for unless they could have gone above two hundred yards from any building, there had been no security; for the force of the wind blew the tiles point-blank, though their weight inclined them downward; and in several broad streets, the windows were broken by the flying of tile-sherds from the other side: and, where there was room for them to fly, tiles were blown above thirty or forty yards, and stuck from five to eight inches into the solid earth: Pieces of timber, iron, and sheets of lead, from higher buildings, were blown much farther.

From two o'clock the storm continued and increased till five in the morning; and from five till half an hour after six it blew with the greatest violence: the fury of it was so exceeding great for that particular hour and half, that had it not abated, nothing could have withstood its violence much longer.

*

Never

*Never was known a night of such distraction!
Noise so confus'd, and dreadful!* DRYDEN.

*Fear chills the heart; What heart can fear
dissemble*

*When steeples stagger, and when mountains
tremble!* HIST. APP. 315.

In this last part of the time the greatest damage was done. Several ships that rode it out till now gave up all; for no anchor could hold.

Even the ships in the river Thames were all blown from their moorings; from Execution-dock to Limehouse-hole, there were but four ships that rid it out; the rest were driven down into the Bite, from Bell-wharf to Limehouse; where they were huddled together and drove on shore, heads and sterns, one upon another, in such a manner as any one would have imagined impossible! The damage was incredible!

Together with the violence of the wind, the darkness of the night added to the terror: as it was just new-moon, the spring-tides being then up about four o'clock, made the vessels, which were afloat in the river, drive the farther up upon the shore: of all which there were very strange instances!

About eight in the morning it ceased so much, that the fears of people were enough abated to begin to peep out of their doors: but it is impossible to express the concern

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that appeared in every place ! the distraction and fury of the night was visible in every face ; and the first business was to visit and enquire after friends and relations. The next day or two was entirely spent in curiosity in viewing the havock the storm had made, which was universal in London, and the out-parts.

The points from whence the wind blew were variously reported : it is certain it blew all the day before at South west, and was thought to continue so till about two o'clock ; when it was judged by the impression it made on houses, for the inhabitants durst not look out, it veered to the South-south-west, then to the West, and about six o'clock to West-by-north ; and still the more northward it shifted the harder it blew, till it shifted again southerly about seven o'clock ; and as it did so, it gradually abated.

It is observable, that this storm blew from the same quarter as that in 1661 ; and that there was less of it northward than here ; in which respect the storms were much alike.

Earth-
quake.

Abundance of people were of opinion that they felt, during the impetuous fury of the wind, several movements of the earth : but as an earthquake must have been so general that every body must have discerned it ; it is more probable that the shaking of the houses, and the terror thereof, deceived their imaginations, and imposed upon their judgments :

ments : for the concern and consternation of all people were so great, that it is no wonder they imagined several things which were not, and enlarged on things that were ; since nothing is more frequent than for fear to double every object, and impose on the understanding ; strong apprehensions being apt very often to persuade us of the reality of such things which we have no other reasons to shew for the probability of, than what are grounded on those fears which prevail at that juncture.

Others thought they heard it thunder. Thunder.

The wind by its unusual violence made a noise in the air resembling thunder : the roaring had a voice as much louder than usual as the fury of the wind was greater than ever was known : the noise had something very formidable in it ; it sounded aloft, and roared very much like remote thunder. But in the countries the air was seen full of meteors and vaporous fires ; and in some places both thunderings and unusual flashes of lightning, to the great terror of the inhabitants. Meteors.

Several women in the city of London who were in travail, or fell into travail by the fright of the storm, were obliged to run the risque of being delivered with such help as they had : for midwives found their own lives in such danger, that few of them thought themselves obliged to shew any concern for the lives of others.

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Robbery. People addicted to wickedness are fearless of God's judgments and uncommon prodigies: a gang of hardened rogues (we may well say, not having the fear of God before their eyes) assaulted a family at Poplar in the very height of the storm, broke into the house, and robbed them. The people cried out, Thieves! and afterwards, Fire! in hopes to raise the neighbourhood, and get some assistance: but such is the power of self preservation (that first of laws) and such was the fear the minds of people were possessed with that nobody would venture out to the assistance of the distressed family, who were rifled and plundered in the middle of all the extremity of the tempest.

Fire in Norfolk.

Fire was the only mischief that did not happen to make the night completely dreadful: yet that was not so every where, for a town in Norfolk was almost ruined by a furious fire, which burnt with such vehemence, and was so fanned with the tempest, that the inhabitants had no power to concern themselves in extinguishing it; the wind blew the flames, together with the ruins, so about, there was no standing near it: if the people came to windward, they were in danger to be blown into the flames; if to the leeward, the flames were so blown into their faces, they could not bear to come near them.

Prodigious tide.

Another unhappy circumstance attending this disaster was a prodigious tide, which happened

pened the next day but one, and was occasioned by the fury of the winds: which is a demonstration that the winds veered part of the time to the northward. It is observable, and known by all that understand our sea affairs, that a north-west wind makes the highest tide; so this blowing to the northward, with unusual violence, brought up the sea, raging in such a manner, that in some parts of England, the waters rose six or eight feet higher than was ever known in the memory of man; by which ships were floated up upon the firm land; and an incredible number of cattle and people drowned.

The waters in the Thames, though they rose higher than usual, did not prodigiously exceed: The height of them proved very prejudicial to abundance of persons who had warehouses and cellars near the river: but special providence said, Hitherto shalt thou come, and no farther; had the tide risen a foot higher, all the marshes and levels on both sides the river had been overflowed, and great part of the cattle drowned.

Though the storm abated with the rising of the sun, it still blew exceeding hard; so that no boat durst stir on the river. About three in the afternoon on Saturday it increased again, and people were in fresh consternation lest it should return with equal violence.— At four it blew an extreme storm, with sudden gusts, as violent as any in the night; but

Saturday,
27th.

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as it came with a very black cloud and some thunder, it brought a hasty shower of rain, which allayed the storm; so that in a quarter of an hour it went off, and only continued blowing as before.

This sort of weather continued all Sunday, Monday, and till Tuesday afternoon, when it increased again: all Tuesday night it blew with such fury that numberless families feared to go to bed. Had not the former terrible night hardened the people to all things less than itself, that night would have passed for a storm fit to be noted in almanacks. Several stacks of chimnies which stood the great storm were blown down in this; ships which escaped in the great storm, perished this night; several people who had repaired their houses, had them untiled again.

Sunday,
28; Mon-
day, 29;
Tuesday,
30.

Wednes-
day, Dec.
1st.

At this rate it continued blowing till Wednesday about one in the afternoon, which was that day se'nnight on which it began: so that it might be called one continued storm from Wednesday afternoon to Wednesday noon: in all which time there was not one interval in which a sailor would not have acknowledged it blew a Storm: and in that time the two terrible nights in this narrative were included.

Wednesday, November 24th was as calm fine a day as at that time of year is usually seen, till about four o'clock, when it began to be cloudy, and the wind rose of a sudden,
and

and in half an hour's time it blew a storm. Wednesday, December 1st it was very tempestuous all the morning; at one o'clock the wind abated, the sky cleared; and by four o'clock there was not a breath of wind.

Thus ended the greatest and longest storm that ever the world felt. Some particular effects of that terrible providence are the subject of the ensuing chapter.

The waters which fell in the storm were brackish.

At Cranbrook in Kent, at least sixteen miles from the sea, and above twenty-five miles from any part of the sea to the windward, from whence the wind could bring any moisture, (for it could not be supposed to fly against the wind) the grass was so salt the cattle would not eat it for several days.

A physician travelling soon after the storm to Tisbury, (about twenty miles from Lewes, and as far from the sea) as he rode he plucked some tops of hedges, and chewing them, found them salt. Some ladies hearing of it, tasted the grapes that were still on the vines, and they also had the same relish.

In the isle of Wight there were found on the hedges and twigs of trees, knobs of salt congealed, (which were seen and tasted by several gentlemen of undeniable reputation) at the distance of six and ten miles from the south and south-west parts of the sea-coast, from which they must come.

At

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Hastings. At Hastings in Suffex, the wind was exceeding boisterous, which might drive the froth and sea moisture fix or seven miles up the country, for at those distances from the sea the leaves of the trees and bushes were as salt as if they had been dipped in the sea.

Mr. Anthony van Lauwenhoek in Phil. Transf. 1704.

Mr. Lauwenhoek affirms, that water may be so dashed and beaten against the banks and dykes by a strong wind, and divided into such small particles, as to be carried far up into the land: which affirmation he proved by an observation in a dreadful storm, when the water, mingled with small parts of chalk and stone, were so dashed against his windows (which stood from the wind, and were guarded by a pent-house) that they were covered with the particles contained in the water which the whirlwind cast against them; and in less than half an hour the glass was deprived of most of its transparency: this fact proved that it was sea-water which the storm had not only dashed against his windows, but spread all over the country.

If we consider what a quantity of sea-water is spread all over the country by a terrible storm, and how greatly impregnated the air is with the same, we ought not to wonder, that such a quantity of water, moved with so great a force, should do so much mischief to chimnies, tops of houses &c. not to mention the damages at sea.

There

STORM IN 1703. 61

There are some who affirm, that the scattering of this salt-water by storms does great harm to the fruits of the earth: but a little salt spread over the surface of the earth, (especially where it is clay-ground) renders it the more fruitful: and so it would be, if the sand of the sea were made use of for the same purpose.

There was really no thunder or lightning in or near London, yet in the countries the air was seen full of meteors and vaporous fires: and in some places both thunderings and unusual flashes of lightning, to the great terror of the inhabitants.

The preceding disposition of the year, as to wet and warmth, might have great influence in the storm; not only in causing a repletion of vapours in the atmosphere, but also in raising such matter as might make a kind of explosion, (like fired gun-powder) from which those flashes in the storm might proceed, which most people observed, and some took for lightning.

A young man at Upper-Donhead, was sent to look after cattle and sheep in an inclosure in which there were stacks of corn blown down: he had much difficulty to find the inclosure in the dark, and to get thither by reason of the tempest, then raging in the height of its fury; yet, being there, he saw a mighty body of fire on an high ridge of hills

Lightning.

Dr Derham in. Phil. Trans. No. 289.

Upper-Donhead. Rev. Mr. Adams.

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hills, about three quarters of a mile from the inclosure, which gave so clear a light into the valley below that he could distinctly descry all the sheep and cattle in the pasture.

That the air was full of meteors and fiery vapours, and that the extraordinary motions occasioned the firing more of them than usual, is very rational: of these there were various accounts, and probably were the lightnings supposed to be seen in many places. The clouds which blew with so much violence through the air, were not such as usually are freighted with thunder and lightning: the hurried nature was then in do not consist with the materials of thunder, which are pent up between the clouds. And the clouds that were seen flying in the air about London, were by the fury of the winds so separated, and in such small bodies, that there was no room for a collection suitable and necessary for thunder and lightning.

Mr.
Clench.

Mr. Clench, an ingenious apothecary in Jermyn-street, St. James's, observed, that from about a quarter before six the storm insensibly decreased; at which time, every gust was preceded by small flashes, which did not dart perpendicularly, but seemed rather to skim along the surface of the ground; nor did they appear to be of the same kind as the common flashes of lightning.

People

People about Portsmouth were much annoyed with sulphurous fumes, and complained they were almost suffocated there-with. Portsmouth.

The following relation of a water-spout is nearly in the words of the rev. Mr. Joseph Ralton, of Besselsleigh in Berkshire. Water-spout.

Friday 26th of November, in the afternoon, about four o'clock, a country fellow came running to me in a great fright, and very earnestly entreated me to go and see a pillar, as he called it, in the air in a field hard by. I went with him, and found it to be a spout, marching directly with the wind. I can compare it to nothing better than the trunk of an elephant, only much larger. It was extended to a great length, and swept the ground as it went, leaving a mark behind. It crossed a field, and, what was very strange to me and several of my astonished countrymen, meeting with an oak that stood toward the middle of the field, snapped the body of it asunder. After crossing a road, it sucked up the water in the cart-ruts: then tumbled down a barn; the thatch from the top was carried away by the wind (which was then very high) in great confusion. After this, I followed it no farther, therefore saw no more of it: but a parishioner of mine going from hence to Hinkley, in a field about a quarter of a mile from this place, was suddenly Hinkley.
knocked

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knocked down, and lay upon the place till people coming by carried him home: it was some time before he recovered. By all that could be collected, concerning the time, the place, and manner of his being knocked down, it is most probable it was done by the spout; the force whereof, if it had continued, must certainly have killed him. His illness afterward might, possibly, be attributed more to his fear than the force of the stroke.

Fear.

This happening the evening before the great storm, confirms what has been before advanced, concerning the violent agitation of the air for some time before the tempest.

Extract of a PASTORAL on the melancholy Occasion.

*Damon, dissolv'd in sweetest slumbers lay,
Tir'd with the toils of the preceding day,
Till blust'ring winds disturb'd his kind repose,
And, fright'ned with the threat'ning blasts, he
rose:
But oh! what havoc did the day disclose!
Those charming willows which on Charwel's
banks
Flourish'd, and thrive, and grew in even ranks
Than those which follow'd the divine command
O, Orpheus' lyre, or sweet Amphion's hand,
By hundreds fall, while hardly twenty stand.
The stately oaks which reach'd the lofty sky,
And kiss'd the very clouds, now prostrate lie.*

Long

*Long a huge pine did with the winds contend,
This way, and that, his reeling trunk they bend,
Till forc'd at last to yield, with hideous sound
He falls; and all the country feels the wound.*

*Nor was the god of winds content with these;
Such humble victims can't his wrath appease:
The rivers swell not, like the happy Nile,
To fatten, dew, and fructify our isle;
But, like the deluge, by great Jove design'd
To drown the universe, and scourge mankind.*

*In vain the frighted cattle climb so high,
In vain for refuge to the hills they fly;
The waters know no limits but the sky:
So now, the bleating flock exchange, in vain,
For barren cliffs their dewy fertile plain:
In vain, their fatal destiny to shun,
From Severn's banks to higher grounds they run.*

*Nor has the navy better quarter found:
There we receiv'd our worst, our greatest
wound!*

*The billows swell, and haughty Neptune raves,
The winds insulting o'er th' impetuous waves.
Thetis, incens'd, rises with angry frown,
And once more threatens all the world to drown.—
Some ships were stranded; some, by surges rent,
Down, with their cargoes, to the bottom went!*

*The particular and dreadful effects of that
tempest, are, for distinction's sake, divided
into the following sections:*

F 1. Damages

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1. Damages in London ;
2. In different counties ;
3. Calculation of the damages ;
4. Damages on and by the water ;
5. Remarkable deliverances.

Only premising, trivial damages are omitted ; what is inserted, is from most authentic accounts, and worthy record, to convince posterity, *This was the most violent tempest the world ever felt* : no pen can truly describe, no tongue express, no thought conceive, the general horror and confusion !

S E C T. I.

Damages in London.

THE city was a dreadful spectacle indeed, the morning after the storm ! As soon as people could put their heads out of doors, they met with nothing but unexpected ruin and destruction : Though great desolation was imagined, no one expected the hundred part of what he saw.

Houses
untiled.

The streets were covered with slates and tiles from the tops of the houses, which were universally stripped ; the quantity was so great, that the tiles within fifty miles, *were sufficient to repair but a small part of the damage.* All the tiles made the next summer were not enough to cover in the houses which were unroofed.

Some-

Something may be guessed herein from the sudden rise of the price of tile, from twenty-one shillings to six pounds *per* thousand for plain tiles; from fifty shillings to ten pounds a thousand for pan tiles. Bricklayer's labour rose to five shillings a day.

After the first hurry was over, the tile-merchants were induced to sell at more moderate rates; not because the quantity wanted was supplied, but because the charge was so extravagant, that there appeared a general neglect both in landlords and tenants: an incredible number of houses remained all the winter uncovered, exposed to all the inclemencies of wet and cold. Those who found it absolutely necessary to cover their houses, made use of wood, as a present expedient, till the time for making tiles should come on, and the extravagant price abate. Whole ranks of buildings, as Christ Hospital, the Temple, Ask's Hospital, Old-street, Hogsdens-square, and abundant other places, were entirely covered with deal boards; and continued in that condition some years, for want of tiles.

It is not possible to give a distinct account of the chimnies which fell that fatal night. Those in the city being built in great stacks, and the houses very high, the fall of them had great and inestimable power in demolishing the houses on which they fell.

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Chimnies,
stacks of,
blown
down.
Houses
blown
down.
Cannon-
bury
house.

St. James's
palace.

There were persons who could give account of upward of two thousand stacks of chimnies blown down in and about London. About twenty whole houses were blown down in the out-parts: Many whole roofs, and more gable-ends of houses were demolished and removed. At *Cannonbury-house* at *Islington*, thirteen stacks of chimnies were blown off. A stack of chimnies in the center of the new buildings at St. James's palace, not quite finished, fell with such a terrible noise as very much alarmed the whole household; and carried away a piece of the coin of the house.

Church
lead, &c.

Part of the palace of St. James's had its share in the fury of that terrible night; and the roof of the guard room at Whitehall was quite blown off; and the great weather-cock blown down.

Leads on the tops of churches, and other buildings, were rolled up like skins of parchment; and at Westminster-abbey, St. Andrew's church in Holborn, Christ hospital, and abundance of other places, they were carried clear off from the buildings.

Public
buildings.

Two new-built turrets on the top of St. Mary Aldermary church; five pinnacles from St. Alban, Wood-street; one of the spires at St. Saviour's, Southwark; four pinnacles at St. Michael's, Crooked-lane; were quite blown off: the vanes and spindles of weather-cocks in many places were bent down; the public buildings in general had their share in the fury and damage of that terrible

terrible night. Several houses near Moorfields were levelled with the ground; and about twenty other whole houses in the out-parts; with innumerable brick-walls, gable-ends and roofs.

An account of brick-walls which fell in and about London by the fury of this tempest would make a volume. In the out-parts, where the gardens and yards are walled in, few escaped. At St. James's, a considerable part of the garden-wall; at Greenwich-park, several pieces of wall down for an hundred rods in a place, some much more; at Battersea, Chelsea, Putney, Clapham, Deptford, Hackney, Islington, Hogsdon, Wood's close, and on every side of the city, the walls of the gardens generally felt the shock, and lay flat on the ground, twenty, thirty, or more rods in a place.

There were as many trees blown down Trees. about London, in proportion to the quantity, as in any part of England: Seventy in Moorfields, some of them affirmed to be three yards about: above an hundred elms in St. James's Park, some of full growth, reported to have been planted by cardinal Wolsey. Above two hundred trees were blown down at Sir George Whitemore's; some of them, of extraordinary size, were broken off in the middle.

It is impossible to enumerate particulars of damages sustained, and accidents which

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happened in and about the great and populous London. Houses looked like falling scaffolding, like skeletons of buildings, like what in truth they were, heaps of ruins. Universal horror sat on all countenances; business, and even pleasure for a time was laid aside; the only thing people in general were intent upon, after they recovered from their consternation, was to procure means and assistance to repair their tattered and tottering habitations.

Lives lost,
and persons
maimed.

This direful blast not only destroyed churches, palaces and houses, blew down trees, walls, and swelled rivers, diverted tides, and made an universal devastation; but to add to the unparalleled misfortune, many persons lost their lives: London bore her share in that part of the horrible and tremendous judgment.

The weekly bills of mortality gave an account of twenty-one persons who lost their lives in this calamity; most of them buried or beaten to pieces, with the rubbish of stacks of chimnies that fell: beside those drowned in the river, and never found. Fourteen persons were drowned in a wherry going to Gravesend; and five coming from Chelsea †. Two hundred persons were very much wounded and maimed.

† Chelsea is not within the London weekly bills of mortality: toward Gravesend, they extend no farther than Limehouse, on the Middlesex; and Rotherhithe, on the Surry, shore.

A woman

STORM IN 1703. 71

A woman was killed by the fall of a chimney at St. James's.

A distiller in Duke-street, his wife and maid, were buried in the rubbish of a stack of chimnies, which forced all the floors, and broke down to the bottom of the house; the wife was taken out alive, but the husband and maid lost their lives.

Mr. Dyer, a plaisterer in Fetter-lane, finding his house shake, jumped out of bed to save himself from the danger, and had, in all probability, time to have got out of the house; but staying to strike a light, a stack of chimnies falling in, killed him, and wounded his wife. Mr. Dyer killed.

Two boys at Mr. Purefoy's in Cross-street, Hatton-Garden, were killed, and buried in the rubbish of a stack of chimnies; and a third very much wounded. Mr. Purefoy's boys killed.

A woman in Jewin-street was killed, venturing to run into the street; and near Aldersgate two persons were killed by the fall of a house.

Mr. Simpson, a scrivener in Threadneedle-street, being fast asleep in bed, hearing nothing of the storm; the rest of the family being more sensible of danger, some of them went up, and awaked him; telling their own apprehensions, and pressing him to rise: but he, too fatally sleepy and unconcerned, told them, he did not apprehend any thing; nor with any persuasions would be prevailed Mr. Simpson killed.

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on to rise. He had not been left many minutes before the chimnies broke through the roof, and killed him in his bed. A carpenter in White-cross-street was killed almost after the same manner, by a stack of chimnies which fell from the Swan tavern. His wife prevailed on him not to go to bed, till two o'clock, when his heaviness outweighed entreaties; being afterward waked, was somewhat displeased at being disturbed, slept again, and was killed in his bed: the wife, whose fears prevented sleeping, or going to bed, escaped. Nine soldiers were hurt with the fall of the guard-house at Whitehall, but none of them died.

Guard-house.

The morning and evening after, when the storm was abated, it blew so hard, that the women who usually go for milk to the cow-houses, in the villages about London, were not able to return with their pails on their heads; one, more hardy than the rest, was blown away with the violence of the wind, and forced into a pond: but strength and struggling being added to hardiness, preserved her from drowning.

London bridge.

It is very remarkable, that the bridge over the Thames at London received but little damage, and not in proportion to what in common reason might be expected; since the buildings there stood high, and were not sheltered, as in other streets, by one another; nor

nor were the houses stronger built than others.

It may not be absurd to suppose, that the indraft of the arches underneath the houses giving vent to the air, it passed there with more than common current; and consequently relieved the buildings, by diverting the force of the storm.

There were hundreds of instances, and many hundred witnesses of the following uncommon experiment and observation.

The wind blew, during the whole storm, between the points of South-west and North-west, (the latitude of eight points): therefore if a building stood North and South, the east-side slope of the roof, must be the lee-side, lie out of the wind, be weathered by the ridge, and consequently receive no damage in a direct line. Experiment.

But demonstration and experiment were convincing against rational argument: in many places, where a building stood ranging North and South, the sides or slopes of the roof to the East and West, the east side of the roof would be stripped and untiled, and the west side, which lay open to the wind, be sound and untouched. In many places the windward side of the roof would be whole, and the leeward, or side from the wind, be untiled; in other places, a high building next the wind has been not much hurt, and a lower building on the leeward side

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side of the high one clean ripped, and hardly a tile left upon it : this was plain in the buildings of Christ-Hospital, where the west and south side of the cloister was at least twenty-five feet higher than the east side, and yet the roof of the lower side on the east was quite untiled by the storm ; and remained a long time covered with deal boards above an hundred feet in length.

Some rain fell the same night, and the ensuing day, but afterward, (though generally a dripping time of year) no considerable quantity ; the weather proved fair and temperate for a month : which gave people leisure to provide shelter, and fortify their houses against the accidents of winter, by deal-boards, old tiles, pieces of sail-cloth, tarpaulin ; whatever necessity could contrive, or art, industry or ingenuity make use of.

S E C T. II.

Damages in different Counties.

Stowmarket.
Rev. Mr.
Farr.

AT *Stowmarket* in *Suffolk*, the finest spire in that part of the country, (new built within thirty years) was overthrown, and fell upon the church. The particulars are thus related by the reverend Mr. Samuel Farr, vicar, and Mr. John Gaudy, Mr. William Garrard, two of the principal inhabitants :

We

We had formerly a spire of timber, covered with lead, of the height of seventy-seven feet, which, being in danger of falling, was taken down; and in the year 1674, with the addition of ten loads of new timber, twenty-one thousand and eight hundred weight of lead, a new one was erected, one hundred feet high from the steeple, with a gallery at the height of forty feet, all open, wherein hung a clock-bell, of between two and three hundred weight. The spire stood about eight yards above the roof of the church; and yet by the extreme violence of the storm, a little before six in the morning, the spire was thrown down, carrying with it all the battlements on the east side, it fell upon the church, at the distance of twenty-eight feet; for so much is the distance between the steeple and the first breach, which is on the north side of the middle roof, where it broke down nine spars clean, each twenty-three feet long, and severally supported with very strong braces. The spire inclining to the north, fell cross the middle wall, and broke off at the gallery, the lower part falling in at the aforesaid breach, and the upper upon the north isle, which is twenty-four feet wide, with a flat roof lately built, all new, and very strong: It carried all before it, from side to side, making a breach thirty-seven feet long, breaking in sunder two large beams which went across, which were twelve inches broad, and fifteen deep,

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deep, and several smaller. Beside these two breaches, there was much damage done by the fall of great stones upon other parts of the roof, as well as by the winds raising up the lead, and a third part of the pews broken in pieces, every thing falling into the church, except the weathercock, which was found in the church-yard at a considerable distance. The damage above 400 l.

Most houses there suffered in their tiling; three single chimnies, and a stack of four together were blown down about the same time; many so shattered they were forced to be taken down. No persons were hurt, though a bed was broken in pieces, which was often lain on, but nobody lay there that night. Generally round the country, incredible damage was done to churches, houses, and barns.—

North-
ampton.
Mr. Benj.
Bullivant.

Mr. Benjamin Bullivant, a person of undoubted credit and reputation at Northampton, has obliged the world with a record of the wonderful works of Providence in that town and neighbourhood in the great tempest.

The weathercock of All-Saints church, being placed on a mighty spindle of iron, was bowed together, and made useless. Many sheets of lead on that church, as also on St. Giles's and St. Sepulchre's, rolled up like a scroll. Three windmills, belonging to the town, blown down to the amazement of all beholders; the
mighty

mighty upright post below the floor of the mill, being snapt in two like a reed. Two entire stacks of chimnies fell on two several roofs, and made a most amazing ruin in the chambers, floors, and even to the lower windows and wainscot, splitting and tearing it as if a blast of gunpowder had happened. The floods at this instant about the South bridge, from a violent S. W. wind, rose to a great and amazing height; the wind coming over or athwart large open meadows, did exceeding damage in that part of the town by blowing down whole houses, carrying whole roofs at once into the streets, and very many lesser buildings of tanners, fell-mongers, dyers, glue-makers, &c. yet, through the goodness of God, no person killed or maimed: the mighty doors of the sessions-house, barred and locked, forced open, whereby the wind entering made a miserable havock of the large and lofty windows: a pinnacle on the Guildhall, with the fane, was also blown down. To speak of houses shattered, corn-ricks and hovels blown from their standings, would be endless. In Sir Thomas Samwel's park, a very great headed elm was blown over the park wall into the road, yet never touched the wall, being carried some yards.—

The rev. Mr. Edward Shipton, vicar of Fairford in Gloucestershire, has given a particular relation of the irreparable damages done

Fairford.
Rev. Mr.
Shipton.

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done to the beautiful church there, and others sustained in that parish.

Painted
glass.

It is the fineness of our church (says this reverend gentleman) which magnifies our present loss, for in the whole it is a large and noble structure, composed within and without of ashler, curiously wrought, and consisting of a stately roof in the middle, and two isles, running a considerable length from one end of it to the other, makes a very beautiful figure. It is also adorned with twenty-eight admired and celebrated windows* which, for the variety and fineness of the painted glass that was in them, justly attract the eyes of all curious travellers to behold and inspect them; nor is it more famous for its glass, than newly renowned for the beauty of its seats and paving, both being, chiefly, the noble gift of that pious and worthy gentleman Andrew Barker, Esq; late lord of the manor. All things considered, it does equal, at least, if not exceed, any parochial church in England.

* Fairford in Gloucestershire has a church with the finest painted windows in England, consisting of several histories of the Old and New Testament, excellently designed by the famous Albert Durer, consisting of twenty-eight large windows, which are exceeding beautifully coloured. The glass was taken in a prize ship by a merchant named John Fame, as it was carrying to be put up in a church at Rome: when he brought it home, he purchased the manor of Fairford of king Henry the eighth; and built this church, on purpose to put up in it the glass he had taken at sea. With much care the glass has been very well preserved.

That

That part of it which felt most the fury of the wind, was a large middle west window, fifteen feet wide, twenty-five feet high : it represented the General Judgment ; and, such a fine piece of art, that 1500 l. has formerly been bidden for it ; but the just and honest parishioners were not to be taken in the golden snare. The upper part, just above the place where our Saviour is drawn sitting on a rainbow, and the earth his footstool, is entirely ruined ; both sides so tattered and torn, especially the left, that, at least, a fourth part is blown down and destroyed. Another window on the left of the former, ten feet broad, and fifteen feet high, sustained like fate ; the upper part entirely broke, except one stone munnel. If this had been ordinary glass, the loss might easily have been computed ; but all the windows in the church are stained through the body of the glass ; and if that art is lost, as is generally imagined, the loss is irretrievable. Other damages about the church testify how strong and boisterous the winds were ; three sheets of lead were unbedded upon the uppermost roof, and rolled up like so much paper. Over the church porch, a large pinnaele and two battlements were blown down upon the leads of it.

As to the houses, the effects of the storm were not so great as in many other places. Chimnies, tiles, and slates were thrown down, but nobody killed or wounded. The poor
who

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who lived in thatched houses, were the greatest sufferers. The fall of trees and ricks of hay are common every where; to be particular would be frivolous and vexatious.

Thunder
and light-
ning.

Saturday the 26th, the day after the storm, about two o'clock in the afternoon, without any previous warning, a sudden flash of lightning, with a short but violent clap of thunder immediately following it, like the discharge of ordnance, fell upon a new and strong built house in the middle of the town, disjointed two chimnies, melted the lead of an upper-window, and struck the mistress of the house into a swoon; but no considerable hurt was found about her. —

Upper-
Donhead.
Rev. Mr.
Rice
Adams,
rector.

The following is a faithful account of what occurred in the neighbourhood of Upper-Donhead in Wiltshire, near Shaftsbury [Somersetshire] written by the reverend Mr. Rice Adams, vicar of Upper-Donhead, which he vouches to be, generally, of his own knowledge and observation; or what he was satisfied of the truth of, by the testimony of others whose integrity he had no reason to suspect.

The storm seemed, for hours, to be a perfect hurricane, the wind raging from every quarter, the dismal effects thereof were evidently demonstrated by demolishing and impairing buildings, throwing up vast numbers of trees by the roots, or snapping them

off

off in their bodies, or larger limbs. Some remarkable particulars follow:

The parish church stands high, but received damage only in some windows; and the fall of a stone from the top of one of the pinnacles; which, lighting on a house adjoining to the tower, with little hurt to the roof, glanced from thence, and rested on the south isle of the church.

Two stone chimnies were thrown down, and two broad stones of each of them lay, at even poise, on the respective ridges of both the houses: and though the wind sat full against one of them to have blown it off, (and then it had fallen over a door, in and out at which several people were passing during the storm) and though the other fell against the wind; yet neither of the stones stirred.

A stone, near four hundred weight, having remained seven years under a bank, defended from the wind as it then sat, though it lay so long as to be fixed in the ground, and was as much out of the wind as could be, being fenced by the bank, and a low stone wall upon the bank, (none of which was demolished) though two small holms standing in the bank, between the wall and the stone, at the foot of the bank, were blown up by the roots; this stone, so fenced from the storm, was carried from the place where it rested so

G many

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many years, into a hollow way beneath, distance at least seven yards.

A widow woman living in one part of an house by herself, kept her bed till the house over her was uncovered, and she expected the fall of the timber and walls ; but getting below stairs, in the dark, and opening the door to fly for shelter, the wind was so strong in the door, that she could neither go out at it, though she attempted going on her knees and hands, nor could she, with all her strength, shut the door again, but was forced to sit alone several hours, till the storm slackened, fearing every gust would have buried her in the ruins ; yet she was preserved, and her very feeble house stood out the storm.

A person had a narrow escape, who was twice in bed that dismal night, some of the ceiling falling on his back and shoulders ; but he was insensible of the great danger he was in, till next morning ; but when day-light appeared, he found the tiles on the side of the house opposite to the main stress of the weather, blown up in two places, one of which was over the head of his bed (about nine feet above it) in which, two or three laths being broken, let down a square of eight or ten stone of tiles, upon one single lath, where they hung, dropping inward a little, bending the lath like a bow, but fell not.

Ashe-
grove.
Trees.

At Ashgrove, in the same parish, there were many trees standing on the side of a hill,

hill, two, of considerable bigness, were blown up, against the side of the hill, many at the same time were blown down the hill; and to fall downward was with the wind.

A poplar tree, near sixteen yards high, was blown into a small current of water; the roots brought up near a tun of earth with them: the tree lay there some days: when the top was sawed off, (though the boughs were nothing to the weight of the but-end) the tree mounted and fell back into its own place, and stood as upright without its head as ever it had done with it.

At the house of Lady Banks, near Salisbury, a walnut-tree was thrown down; after the greater limbs had been cut off in the day-time, in the night, it returned of itself to its former posture. On the sixteenth of December following, the rector saw it standing, and could hardly perceive any token of its having been down; so very exactly it fell back into its place. The ground was declining, and the tree raised against the hill.

Lady
Banks.

The reverend rector saw two trees thrown very near two houses, with little or no harm, which, if they had fallen with the wind, must needs have fallen directly on the houses; and two very tall elm trees of his own, fell in among five young walnut-trees, without injuring a twig of either of them; to the admiration of all beholders. The top of another elm, the rest of the tree left standing, was

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carried off from the body of the tree near twenty yards.—

Littleton
in Worces-
tershire.
Mr. Ralph
Norris.

Mr. Ralph Norris of Littleton in Worcester-
shire gave information that the violent
hurricane visited the villages there in its pas-
sage, to the great terror of the inhabitants,
who all escaped with lives and limbs, and the
main fabric of their houses stood, though
with much shaking, and damage to many
roofs: but the morning of that dismal night,
they were surprized at the dangers escaped,
when they discovered the sad havock among
the trees in their orchards and closes, very
many fruit-trees, and many mighty elms,
being torn up; and one elm above the rest,
of very great bulk and ancient growth, Mr.
Norris observed, which might have defied
the strength of all the men and teams in the
parish (though assaulted in every branch with
ropes and chains) was found torn up by the
roots, all sound, and of vast strength and
thickness, and with its fall (as was thought)
by the help of the same impetuous gusts,
broke off, in the middle of the timber, ano-
ther great elm, its fellow, and next neigh-
bour: but some little houses and out-houses,
that seemed to stand in the same current,
without any visible burrow or shelter, escap-
ed in their roofs with very little damage.

Trees.

Leaming-
ton-Hall.
ing.

Though many stories related of what hap-
pened in the late storm, will scarce gain cre-
dit, the following Mr. E. Kingsburgh, who
lived

lived at Leamington-Hastings, near Dun-
Church, in Warwickshire, was an eye-witness
of.

Mr. E.
Kings-
burgh.

The storm began there on the 26th about midnight; but the severest blasts were between five and six in the morning. Between eight and nine on the 27th in the morning, Mr. Kingsburgh went up to the church, and found all the middle isle clearly stripped of the lead, from one end to the other; and a great many of the sheets lying on the east end upon the church, rolled up like a piece of cloth: on the ground were found six sheets of lead, (at least fifty hundred weight, all joined together, not the least parted, but as they lay upon the isle) which were carried in the air by the wind fifty yards and a foot; measured by a workman, exactly as could be, from the place of the isle where they lay to the place where they fell: and they might have been carried a great way farther, had they not happened in their way upon a tree, struck off an arm of it seventeen yards high; the end of one sheet was twisted round the body of the tree, and the rest all joined together, lay at length; having broke down the pales first where the tree stood, and lay upon the pales on the ground.

The reverend Mr. William Offley, rector of Middleton-Stony in Oxfordshire, gives the following account of what happened in his parish.

Middle-
ton-Stony
in Oxford-
shire.

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Rev. Mr.
William
Offley.

November 26, 1703, the wind being South-west and by West, it began to blow very hard at twelve at night; about four or five in the morning, Nov. 27, the hurricane was very terrible; many large trees were blown up by the roots; the leads of the church were rolled up; the stone battlements of the tower were blown upon the leads; several houses and barns were uncovered, part of a new-built wall of brick, blown down; and very much damage of the like nature in the adjacent towns and villages.

Marson.

At Marson, four miles from the above mentioned place, a great rick of wheat was blown off from its straddles, and set down, without one sheaf removed or distributed, or without standing awry, twenty yards from the place.—

Fareham
in Hamp-
shire.

At Fareham in Hampshire six barns were blown down, with divers other out-houses; and many trees torn up by the roots, and others broken off in the middle; by the fall of a large elm, a very large stone-window at the west end of the church was broken down; and two stacks of chimnies, without hurting any person. In Pupal Coppice, an oak, of about a load of timber, was twisted off with the wind, and the body, that was left standing, down to the very roots, so shivered, that if it were cut transversely it would fall all in pieces. In Portsdown, in the parish of Southwick, three miles from Fareham, a windmill was blown down, which had not been

Trees.

Portf-
down.

been erected many years; great damage was done to Mr. Norton by the fall of chimnies and trees. In the *Healing*, they were obliged to supply the want of slates and tiles with slit-deal, till summer; and the thatching could not be repaired till after another harvest.

Mr. Norton.
Healing.

Mr. Henry Stanton gave this account; and laments the loss of a vessel whereof one John Watson was master, because he had a great quantity of goods on board her.

Mr. William Mitchell relates what happened most remarkable at Christ-church in Hampshire.

Christ-church.

Great part of the roof of the church was blown off; the covering was very large purbeck-stone; the battlements of the tower and part of the leads blown down; stones of between two and three hundred weight were blown some rods distance from the church; twelve sheets of lead rolled up together, that twenty men could not have done the like, to the great amazement of those who saw them; several houses, barns, and stacks of chimnies, and hundreds of trees were blown down. Mr. Thomas Spencer had the top of a brick chimney taken off by the house, blown across a cart-road, lighting upon a barn of Richard Holloway's, broke down the end of it, and fell upright upon one end, on a mow of corn in the barn: though Spencer and his wife were then sitting by the fire, they knew nothing of it till

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next morning. A stack of chimnies of Mr: Imber's fell down upon a young gentlewoman's bed, who had just before got out of it. Several out-houses and stables were destroyed, and some cattle killed. Some wheatricks were entirely blown off their staffolds, and lighted on their bottom, without other damage.

Ring-
wood.
Fording-
bridge.

At Ringwood and Fordingbridge several houses and trees were blown down, and many houses uncovered.

Oxford.
Mr. J.
Bagshot.

Mr. J. Bagshot has assured the world, that the following is an exact and faithful account of the damages at Oxford by the violent tempest: which was confirmed by other hands.

At Oxford they were no less terrified with the violence of the storm than were the inhabitants of London, though in comparison their damage was little. The most considerable was, a child killed in *St. Giles's* by the fall of a house; two pinnacles taken off from the top of Magdalen tower; one from Merton; about twelve trees blown down in Christ-church long-walk, some of the battlements from the body of the cathedral, and two or three ranges of rails on the top of the great quadrangle: part of the great elm in University garden was blown off, and a branch of the oak in Magdalen walks: the rest of the colleges escaped tolerably well, and the schools and theatre entirely.

A remarkable passage happened at Queen's college, several sheets of lead, judged near six thousand weight, were taken off from the top of Sir John Williamson's buildings, and blown against the west end of *St. Peter's* church, with such violence, that they broke an iron bar in the window, making such a prodigious noise with the fall, that some who heard it thought the tower had been falling. The rest of the loss there consisted for the most part in pinnacles, chimnies, trees, slates, tiles, windows, &c. amounting by computation to about one thousand pounds.

At Kingston upon Thames, a stack of chimnies belonging to Mrs. Copper fell on the bed in which she lay, she being just got up, and gone down stairs, received no bodily hurt. A stack of chimnies at Mr. Robert Banford's fell on a bed in which his son and daughter lay, but they were likewise gone down stairs, and received no harm. A stack of chimnies at the Bull-inn was blown down, and broke way into the kitchen, but hurt nobody. A new brick malt-house belonging to Mr. Francis Best, was blown off at the second floor: many barns and out-houses were destroyed; few houses there but lost their tiling. Multitudes of trees were blown down; eleven elms belonging to Mr. John Bowles; thirty apple-trees of Mr. Pierce's; Mr. Andrew had an hundred apple-trees blown to the ground. Walter Kent,

90 ACCOUNT OF THE

Kent, Esq; had above twenty rod of new brick-wall of his garden blown down, and Mr. Tiringam above ten; Mr. George Cole, a merchant, had some rods of new brick-wall thrown down; and Mr. Blitha, a merchant, had all his walling levelled, and other extraordinary losses.

Mr. C.
Castle-
man.

The truth of which was attested by Mr. C. Castleman.

Tewks-
bury,
Glou-
cester-
shire.
Rev. Mr.
Mat-
thews.

Mr. Matthews, minister of Tewksbury in Gloucestershire, says, Two well-grown elms stood before an alms-house in the church-yard; one was broken short in the trunk, and the head turned southward; the other torn up by the roots, and cast northward. Divers chimnies were blown down, to the great damage and consternation of the inhabitants: one rising in the middle of two chambers, fell so violently that it broke through the roof and ceiling, and fell by the bed of Mr. W. M. damaged some part of the bed-tester and furniture, but himself, wife and child, were signally preserved. An out-house, containing a stable, mill-house, and barn, about forty feet in length, standing at the end of the town, intirely fell down. The wind remitted there about five in the morning: all the inhabitants were terribly alarmed by the violence of the storm: some were hurt, but none killed.

The beautiful cathedral church of Gloucester, suffered much.

The

The damages sustained in the parish of Hatfield, Hertfordshire. Hatfield in Hertfordshire amounted to many hundred pounds, some of the most observable are here certified by the reverend Mr. George Rev. Mr. Hemfworth. Hemfworth, the curate, who was in great measure an eye-witness of them, and had the rest from persons of undoubted credit.

The church, which was tiled, was so shattered, that the body was obliged to be entirely ripped. Two barns and a stable were blown down; in the latter were thirteen horses, and none of them hurt, though there was but one to be seen when the man first came. Above twenty large trees were blown down Trees. in the regular walks in the park. All the trees down in both parks were above an hundred stacks of wood. A summer-house, which stood on the east side of the bowling-green at Hatfield-house, was blown against the wall, and broken, and a large part of it carried over the wall, beyond a cart-way, into the ploughed ground. Great part of the south-wall, belonging to one of the gardens, was levelled with the ground; though it was so strong that great part of it continued cemented, though it fell upon a gravel walk. Part of the fine painted glass in lord Salis- Earl of Salisbury. bury's chapel window was broken, though it looked toward the east. The north side of an house was untiled several yards square. In some places the lead was raised up, and quite blown off from one portal. In Broc-
ket-

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Brocket-
hall park.
Trees.

ket-hall Park, belonging to sir John Reade, so many trees were blown down that they could scarce be numbered as they lay; but were above a thousand.

Brenchly,
Kent.

At Brenchly in the western part of Kent was a stately steeple, in altitude above twelve rods, which strong and noble structure was levelled with the ground; the fall of which beat down great part of the church and porch, to the damage of a thousand pounds. —Many houses, barns and other buildings were quite demolished; there was not one house but suffered greatly by the tempest.

Great
Peckham.

The neighbouring parishes were not much more favoured; especially at Great Peckham, where the steeple, almost as high as that at Brenchly, was blown down, but not so much damage done to the church. This was the nearest account that could be given by the reverend Mr. Thomas Figg, minister of Brenchly.

Whit-
stable.

At Whitstable, a small village on the mouth of the East Swale of the river Medway, a boat belonging to a hoy was taken up by the violence of the wind, clear off from the water; and being borne up in the air, blew, turning continually over and over in it progressive motion, till it lodged against a rising ground, above fifty rods from the water: in the passage it struck a man, who was in the way, and broke his knee to pieces.

At

At a town near Chatham the lead of the church was rolled up together, and blown off to above twenty rods distance; being taken up and weighed, the weight was above two thousand six hundred.

A gentleman having occasion to traverse the county of Kent about a month after the storm, besides the general desolation, which in every village gave almost the same prospect, he reckoned eleven hundred and seven dwelling houses, out-houses and barns, blown quite down; whole orchards of fruit-trees laid flat upon the ground; and of all other trees such a quantity, that though he attempted to take an account of them, he found it impossible; and was obliged to give over.

At Hawkhurst on the edge of Suffex and Kent, eleven barns were blown down, beside the houses shattered or uncovered.

Near Hawkhurst, a waggon standing in a field loaden with straw, and bound well down in order to be fetched away next day, the wind took the waggon, drove it backward several rods, forced it through a very thick hedge into the road; and the way being dirty, drove it with that force into the mud or clay, of the road, that six horses could not pull it out.

The lead of the great church in Monmouth was rolled up like a roll of cloth, and blown off from the church, though on the side

94 ACCOUNT OF THE

side from the wind: there was likewise vast variety of ruins in houses and barns; one of the latter fell with a quantity of sheep in it, of which seven were killed.

Walling-
ford.

At Wallingford, Robert Dowell and his wife being in bed, the chimney falling in, demolished the house; the main beam breaking upon the bed, the woman received little damage, but the man had his thigh broke by the beam, and lay in a dangerous condition two months after.

Axmin-
ster,
Somerfet-
shire.

At Axminster in Somerfetshire, Dr. Towgood had his court gate, with a piece of wall, blown to the other side of the road, (which was twelve feet over) and stood upright against the hedge: It was as much as two horses could draw. A sheet of lead, which lay flat, carried from Sir William Drake's quite over a wall into the minister's court, near threescore yards. A tree, which stood in Mr. John Witty's ground, was broke in the middle, and the top of it blown over the hedge, a wall, and the top of a house, without hurting the house. A mow of corn was blown off the posts, and set upright, without damage, belonging to William Oliver. At an estate of Edward Seymour's, called Chapel-Craft, a maiden oak which stood in the Quille, more than a man could fathom, was broke in the middle. Several hundred apple, and other trees, were blown down. Most houses were damaged in

in the tilth and thatch. The loss in apple-trees was greatest: the farmer set them up again, but the wind blew them down a second time after the storm.

The reverend Mr. Nathan Kinsey, minister of Hartley in the county of Southampton, had his house very much mortified; and by the fall of a chimney, the lives of him and his family endangered. In Hartley, and the adjacent parishes, several dwelling houses were stripped, barns overturned, sign-posts blown down, and many trees, both timber and fruit.

Hartley,
South-
ampton.

Great damage was done to the houses at Oakingham in Berkshire; the market-house very much shattered, and the clock therein spoiled; several hundred trees torn up by the roots, mostly elms: some barns were blown down, and most of the signs in the town; some of the leads of the church were torn up. Loss computed at a thousand pounds.

Oaking-
ham,
Berks.

Trees.

In the parish of Bagshot in Surry, a great many chimnies were blown down, and houses and barns shattered, to the value of three hundred pounds.

Bagshot,
Surry.

Some of the chimnies of the manor house were blown down, together with four hundred pannels of pales, and some of the garden walls. In the town most of the houses were shattered, and tops of the chimnies blown down; several great elms torn up by the roots.

The

96 ACCOUNT OF THE

The truth of the two last accounts were testified by Mr. Jo. Lewis.

Becles.

The leads of the great church at Becles were ript up; part of the great window blown down; and the whole town exceedingly shattered.

Ewell.

At Ewell, by Epsom in Surry, the lead from the flat roof of Mr. Williams's house was rolled up by the wind, and blown from the top of the house clear over a brick wall near ten feet high, without damnifying either the house or the wall; the lead was carried near six rods from the house, and was computed to weigh near ten tuns. This was certified by Mr. George Holdsworth of Epsom.

Ely.

The minster, or cathedral church, at Ely, being a very ancient building, and crazy, could not be imagined able to stand the fury of the wind; people, who lived within the reach of it, had terrible apprehensions of its falling; some shocks gave it such motions, that any one that felt it, would have thought it impossible it could stand: yet, contrary to all expectation, though it suffered much in every part (especially in what is called the body) it outstood the storm.

The lead was torn and rent up a considerable way together, and in divers parts blown up into great heaps; above forty lights of glass blown down, and shattered to pieces; an ornamental pinnacle belonging to the
north

north isle, demolished; five chimnies blown down in the college (the lodgings of the prebendaries) which took some part of the houses along with them. The loss sustained by the church and college was about two thousand pounds. But the burning and blowing down three mills belonging to Jeremiah Foulsham, to the value of an hundred pounds, his particular loss was more severely felt, because it was almost his utter ruin and impoverishment. All the windmills, in town and country, were blown or burnt down by the violence of the wind, or wholly disabled from answering the design for which they were made. The inhabitants of the town of Ely, and the country in general, received some damages in their estates, and substance; houses stripped of tiling; barns and out-houses laid even with the ground; stacks of corn and hay, much damaged: the general loss was about twenty thousand pounds. No persons were killed; but, though some were in more imminent danger than others, the escape of all from death was, in general, almost miraculous.

The account from Ely was given by Mr. A. Armiger.

The town of Sudbury in Suffolk fared better than they expected; they had many barns, trees, chimnies and tiles blown down; but the neighbouring towns were fearfully shattered.

H

The

98 ACCOUNT OF THE

Tun-
bridge.
Trees.
Penchurst.
South-
borough.

The post-master at Tunbridge in Kent relates, there were above five hundred trees blown down at Penchurst park; the great grove at Southborough almost blown down; scarcely a house in Tunbridge town that had not received damage: Sir Andrew Judd's school-house suffered most particularly. In the adjacent country, many houses suffered, and few barns escaped. Sir Thomas Twisden had a stable blown down, and two horses killed: at Sommerhill-park many trees were blown down.

Somer-
hill-park.

Medhurst,
Suffex.

At Medhurst in Suffex, untiling houses, blowing down chimnies in the town, and throwing down barns in the neighbourhood, were the chief mischiefs which happened to private people. But we give a very short account of the loss sustained by lord Montacute at his seat at Medhurst, when we report, that five stacks of chimnies were thrown down there; one of them did considerable damage, as it fell on the great hall, and, that above five hundred of his lordship's trees were torn up by the roots.

The church steeple of Osborn, half a mile from Medhurst was blown down at the same time.

The particulars of the storm at Rigate, are related in the following manner, by Mr. Thomas Foster.

Great numbers of vast tall trees were blown down, and some of very considerable bigness broken

broken quite in the middle : two windmills ^{Rigate.}
 were blown down ; in one happened a very ^{Trees.}
 remarkable providence, worthy observation :
 The miller of Charlewood mill, not far from
 Rigate, hearing in the night time the wind
 blow very hard, arose from bed, and went ^{Charle-}
 to his mill, resolving to turn it to the wind, ^{wood mill,}
 and set it to work, as the only means to pre-
 serve it standing ; but in the way feeling for
 the key, found he had left it at his dwelling-
 house, and returned to fetch it ; his lucky
 forgetfulness preserved his life, which he
 would inevitably have lost ; for in that inter-
 rim the mill was blown quite down.

Stacks of corn and hay were scattered to
 great distances from the places where they
 stood. Many barns and stacks of chimnies
 were blown down. Scarcely a town in the
 whole parish but suffered considerable da-
 mage.

In the parish of Capel by Darking, one ^{Capel by}
 Charles Man was in bed with his wife and ^{Darking.}
 two children ; by fall of part of the house, he
 and one child were killed, and his wife and
 the other child miraculously preserved.

At Basingstoke in Hampshire, a great ^{Basing-}
 many houses were blown down, many barns, ^{stoke,}
 and abundance of trees. In a park of Esq, ^{Hamp-}
 Wallops, three miles from Basingstoke, eight ^{shire.}
 hundred pounds worth of oak, and the same
 value of other trees were blown down ; and
 proportionably all over the country. Abun-

100 ACCOUNT OF THE

dance of houses were untiled, and chimnies blown down. People were generally in great fears and consternation, and imagined the world at an end. But Mr. W. Nevill, who reported this account, heard of no person killed thereabout.

Shore-
ham.

At Shoreham, the market-house, an ancient but strong building, was laid flat to the ground, and all the town shattered.

Bright-
helm-
ston.

Brighthelmston, being an old and poor, though very populous town, was most miserably torn to pieces; it made the very picture of desolation, and looked as if it had been sacked by an enemy.

St. Kea-
verne,
Cornwall.

At St. Keaverne, near Helford, in Cornwall, the storm began between eight and nine o'clock; at twelve it blew in a most violent and dreadful manner; the inhabitants thought the great day of judgment was coming on them.

It continued blowing thus till five, and then abated a little; but did prodigious damage to all sorts of people; their houses were blown down; their corn carried out of their stack-yards, to some furlongs distance: the fields looked as if they had shaken the sheaves of corn over them. Several barns were blown down, and the corn in them carried clear away.

Trees.

The churches thereabout suffered much; the roofs were torn to pieces, and blown to a considerable distance.

The

The fruit-trees in that neighbourhood, were so dismembered and torn, that few or none were left fit for bearing. Elms, oaks, and other large timber trees were generally blown down. Few gentlemen had any trees left standing about their houses. Trees and houses and vallies, and most out of the wind, suffered most. The damage there was very general both to rich and poor.

In Helford, a small haven in Cornwall, there was a tin ship blown from her anchors, with only one man and two boys on board, without anchor, cable, or boat, and forced out of the haven about twelve o'clock at night; next morning by eight, the ship miraculously run in between two rocks in the isle of Wight, where the man and boys were saved, but the ship lost. Such a run, in so short a time, is next to incredible, being near eighty leagues in eight hours: but the relator assures, he knew very well the master of the ship, and some who were concerned in the lading. See this confirmed by Mr. Thomas Reade, of Newporte, and a more particular relation of that accident.

Helford.
Tin ship
drove to
Wight,
and lost.

A man and his son were killed at Wormsle, two miles from Webley in Herefordshire; lord Scudamore had several great oaks blown down at Hom, four miles from Hereford; several great elms were levelled at Hinton on Wye side; and hundreds of fruit trees in parts of that country. In Hereford

Wormsle,
Hereford-
shire.

other H 3 city

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Hin'on. city some chimnies were blown down, and
Mrs. Anne abundance of houses untiled. Which was
Watts. certified by Mrs. Anne Watts.

Ledbury, At Ledbury in Herefordshire, two wind-
Hereford- mills were blown down; and four stacks of
shire, chimnies in a new-built house, which wound-
ded a maid-servant: at another gentleman's
house, the coachman fearing the stable
would fall, got his master's coach horses out
to save them; but leading them by a great
stack of hay, the wind blew down the stack
upon the horses, killed the one and maimed
the other.

Laneloe, At Laneloe in the county of Brecon in
Wales. Wales, a poor woman and child were blown
away, the child, about ten years old, was
taken taken up in the air two or three yards,
and very much bruised and wounded in the
-fall.

Bp. of The dismal accident which happened to
Bath and the right reverend the bishop of Bath and
Wells and Wells and his lady at the palace at Wells was
lady killed related by Mrs. Edith Conyers, and con-
firmed by other hands:

The palace was the relicks of a very old
decayed castle; only one corner was new-
built; but the bishop lay that night in the
old apartments, where two chimney stacks
fell on the roof, drove it into his lordship's
bed, forced it quite through into the hall,
and buried them both under the ruins. It is
supposed he perceived the fall before it came,
jumped

jumped out of bed, and was making toward the door : for his lordship had his gown on, and was found at some distance from the bed, with his brains dashed out : the lady likewise perceiving it, as is supposed, wrapped all the bed-cloathes about her ; and in that manner was found smothered in bed.

At Wells, two houses were blown down flat, just as the people were gone out ; stacks of chimnies, roofs, and parts of houses, were blown down, or damaged, but no other accident of death in that town. Wells.

In the country about, a multitude of apple and elm trees were rooted up by the ground, and abundance of wheat and hay mows blown down. Trees.

At Huntspil, twelve miles from Wells, there were four or five vessels drove ashore a long way up on the land ; from whence no succeeding tide rising to near that height, they could never be got off. In the same parish, the tide broke in breast-high : All the people escaped but one woman who was drowned. Huntspil.

A considerable breach was made in the town wall, at Cardiff, and part of the church steeple blown down ; most of the inhabitants suffered very much in their houses ; and abundance of trees were unrooted : at the same time the river overflowed, and drowned the low grounds on both sides the town, whereby some hundreds of sheep were lost, Cardiff.

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and some cattle. One of the market boats was lifted upon the key. Certified by Mr. William Jones.

Berkley,
Gloucestershire.

The following is an account given by the reverend Mr. Henry Head, vicar of Berkly in Gloucestershire, of damages in that parish, by the great storm.

Sea-wall.

This parish, says that reverend gentleman, is a very large one, on one side whereof runneth the *Severn*, which, by reason of the violence of the storm, beat down and tore to pieces the sea-wall, in many places, and levelled it almost with the ground, forcing great quantities of earth to a great distance, from the shore, and stones, some of which were above an hundred weight: thereby the *Severn* was let in above a mile over one part of the parish, and did great damage to the land; it carried away one house which was hard by the sea-side, and a gentleman's stable wherein was a horse, into the next ground; then the stable fell to pieces, and the horse came out.

There was one thing very remarkable happened there; twenty-six sheets of lead, hanging all together, were blown off from the middle isle of the church, and carried over the north isle (which was a very large one) without touching it; and into the church-yard, ten yards distant from the church; and they were taken up all joined together as they were on the roof: the
plumber

plumber reported that each sheet weighed three hundred and an half.

William Kingscote, Esq; of Kingscote, about three miles from Tedbury, had many woods, among which was one grove of very tall trees, near eighty feet high, which the gentleman much valuing for their tallness and prospect, resolved never to cut them down: six hundred of them, within the compass of five acres, were wholly blown down (supposed to be much at the same time) each tree tearing up the ground with its root; so that the roots of most of the trees, with the turf and earth about them, stood up at least fifteen or sixteen feet high; the laying down those trees was an amazing sight to all beholders. This account was given by the gentleman himself.

The dreadful storm did but little damage to the church at Slimbridge, near the Severn, Slim-bridge. but the houses thereabout were most terribly shaken. In the midst of the church-yard grew a vast tree, thought to be the largest and most flourishing elm in the land, which The great elm. was torn up by the roots, some of which were bigger than a moderate sized man's middle, and several than a man's thigh; the compass of them curiously interwoven with the earth, being from the surface (or turf) to the basis, full an ell in depth, and eighteen feet and half in the diameter, and yet thrown up almost perpendicular, the trunk, together with

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with the loaden roots, made more than thirteen tun, and the limbs made six loads of billets with faggots: the minister had observed, two years before, that the circumambient boughs dropped round above two hundred yards. The minister gave it for a finger's seat in the church, and the date of the storm is inscribed on it. The above was verified by Mr. William Frith, churchwarden.

Chepstow bridge. At the same place, the tide drowned the greatest part of the sheep on the common, and many cows between that and Bristol: on the opposite shore in Glamorganshire, it broke down part of Chepstow-bridge over the Wye.

Somersetshire. At *Axbridge*, in the west of *Somersetshire*, the wind broke down many trees; the house of *Richard Henden* of *Charter-house* on *Mendip*, called *Piney*, was almost blown down.

Compton-bishop. The tower of *Compton-bishop* was much shattered, and the leads that covered it were taken clean away, and laid flat in the churchyard. The house of *John Cray* received much and strange damages, which, together with his part of the sea-wall, amounted to five hundred pounds.

Burnham. Near the salt works in the parish of *Burnham*, five trading vessels (colliers and corn-dealers between *Wales* and *Bridgewater*) were driven at least one hundred yards upon pasture ground.

In

In the North marsh on the sides of Bristol river, near Ken at Walton-Woodspring, the waters broke in with such violence, that they came six miles into the country, drowning much cattle, carrying away several hay ricks and stacks of corn.

At a farm at Churchill, near Wroughton, it blew down an hundred and fifty elms, that grew mostly in rows, were laid as uniform as soldiers lodge their arms.

At Cheddar near Axbridge, much harm was done, more especially in houses and apple trees.

At Brewton, the church windows received considerable damage and little in the rest of the buildings. Lady Fitzharding's house, standing by the church, the battlement with part of the wall of the house, was blown down, which the strength of twenty men could not have thrown down. A great many trees in the park were torn up by the roots, and laid in very good order one after another.

It was taken notice, that the wind did not come in a full body at once, but in several gusts. In riding half a mile, a tree might not be seen down, nor much hurt to houses; then, for some space, the trees down, and all the houses shattered: It ran so all up the country, in such a line as the wind sat: at the beginning it was at South-west, about one o'clock it turned to North-west, after which was the highest of the wind.

*

About

Wincan-
ton.

About *Wincanton*, Mrs. *Gapper* had thirty-six elm trees growing together in a row, thirty five of them were blown down. One *Edgehill* of the same town, and his family, hearing the house begin to crack, arose from their beds, and got out of doors; as soon as they were out, the roof fell in: the wind took off the children's head-clothes, which they never saw afterward.

Plimouth
harbour.
Pendennis
castle.
Churches

The harbour of *Plimouth*, the castle at *Pendennis*, the cathedral at *Gloucester*, the great church at *Berkley*, the church of *St. Stephen* at *Bristol*, the churches at *Blandford*, *Bridgewater*, at *Cambridge*, and generally the churches all over *England*, received a great share of the damage.

Hull.

Though it blew a great storm farther northward, yet nothing so furious as this way. At *Hull* it was violent, but moderate compared with the stupendous fury with which all the southern part of the nation was attacked.

Orchards
and trees.

When the reader finds an account from *Milford-haven* in *Wales*; from *Helford* in *Cornwall*, *West*; from *Yarmouth* and *Deal*, *East*; from *Portsmouth*, *South*; and *Hull*, in the *North*; he cannot suppose all the vast interval had not the same, or proportioned suffering: It would be endless and tiresome to enumerate the individuals; to tell the desolation and ruin of whole parks, groves, and fine walks.

In

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In Kent were seen great orchards with the trees lying flat; perhaps one tree standing (where a house sheltered it) in other places, none at all. In a circuit over part of that county, a person had the curiosity to count the number of trees blown down, but was tired when he had reckoned seventeen thousand, but had reason to believe he did not observe half the quantity. Kent.
Trees.

The general havock in orchards and gardens among fruit-trees, (especially in the cyder-counties of Devon, Gloucester, Hereford, Somerset and Worcester, where there were numerous and large orchards) was so great, that for several miles together there were very few trees left.

So many trees were every where blown down, that the ways were not passable, till people were procured to saw them off, and remove them.

— *Winds from th' Æolian ball,
Roar through the woods, and make whole forests fall!*

POPE'S HOM. II. xiv. 460.

The seats of gentlemen in all places had extraordinary share in the damage; their parks, in many places, perfectly dismantled, the trees before their doors levelled, their garden walls blown down; above a thousand houses (within the compass of these collected papers) had from five to ten stacks of chimnies Parks, &c.

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Chimnies. nies blown down, according to the dimensions of the houses.

Besselsleigh. At Besselsleigh in Berkshire, about four miles south-west of Oxford, the wind was violent in other respects, but left one very strange mark of its furious power; a very tall elm was found the next morning standing, but perfectly twisted round; the root a little loosened, but not torn up.

Corn and hay. Stacks of corn and hay were, in all places either blown down, or so torn that they received great damage: it is very observable, those which were blown down received least injury; when the main body of a stack of hay stood safe, the top being loosened by the violence of the wind, the hay was driven up into the air, and flew about like feathers, that it was entirely lost, and hung about the neighbouring trees, and spread on the ground for a great distance, and so perfectly separated, that there was no gathering it together.

Barley and oats. Barley and oats suffered the same casualty, only that the weight of the corn settled it sooner to the ground than the hay.

Wheat. The accounts of stacks of wheat are very strange, and almost incredible: a great stack of corn was taken from the hovel on which it stood, and without dislocating the sheaves, set upon another hovel, from which the wind had just before removed another stack of equal dimensions: and a stack of corn wheat taken up by the wind, was set down whole sixteen

STORM IN 1703. 111

teen rods distant; and the like. As there were other accounts equally strange, and better attested, these may gain a degree of credit. There were several accounts of stacks of wheat taken clear from the frame or steddal, and set down whole; abundance over set, and thrown off from their standings; others quite dispersed, and in great measure destroyed.

The exceeding cheapness of corn the succeeding winter, has been urged to prove there was no great quantity destroyed: but the true reasons for that cheapness were,

The stacks of corn in some countries, especially westward, where the people generally lay up their corn in stacks, being so damaged, and the barns in all places, universally uncovered, and vast numbers of them overturned and blown down, the country people were under a necessity of threshing out their corn with all possible speed; lest, if a rain had followed, (which at that time of year was most probable) it had been all spoiled.

Cheap-
ness of
corn.

Farmers were obliged, likewise, to thresh their corn, for straw to repair the thatch and covering of barns, to secure what remained.

It was a special providence to the people in the country, as well as *London*, that it did not rain, in any quantity, for near three weeks after the storm.

These circumstances forced the corn to market in unusual quantities, and made it cheaper

112 ACCOUNT OF THE

cheaper than ordinary ; and not the quantity then in store.

S E C T. III.

Calculation of the Damages.

AN Estimate of the loss and damages can only be made from general accounts ; but the following particulars are not exaggerated above the truth.

Killed,
and lost.

Including the city of London, one hundred twenty-three persons were killed : that account was taken of. The number of men lost, including those on the coast of Holland, those in ships blown away and never heard of, and those drowned in the flood of the Severn and in the Thames, by all calculations that could be made, exceeded eight thousand.

Houses
blown
down.

Above eight hundred houses were blown down ; in most of them the inhabitants received some bruise or wounds, and many lost their lives.

Churches
uncover-
ed, &c.

Above an hundred churches covered with lead were uncovered, and the lead rolled up ; from some of them the lead, in great quantities, was blown to incredible distances. Seven steeples were quite blown down, beside abundance of pinnacles and battlements from those which stood ; and the churches where it happened most of them demolished, or terribly shattered.

Above

STORM IN 1703. 113

Above four hundred windmills were over-
set and broken to pieces; or the sails so
blown round that the timbers and wheels
have heated and set the rest on fire, and so
burnt them down: particularly several in the
isle of Ely. Windmills
overset
Ely.

In New Forest in Hampshire, above four
thousand trees were blown down, some of
prodigious bigness. New
Forest.

There were twenty-five parks in the seve-
ral counties which had more than a thou-
sand trees in each blown down: and above
four hundred and fifty parks and groves
which lost from two hundred to a thousand
large trees each. Parks.

What the loss, how many poor families
ruined, is not to be estimated!

The fire of London was an exceeding loss,
by some reckoned at four millions sterling;
happening upon a spot where vast quantities
of goods were exposed to the fury of the
flames, and destroyed in a hurry, and four-
teen thousand dwelling houses entirely con-
sumed; yet that desolation was confined to a
small space, the loss fell on the wealthiest
part of the people; but this loss was univer-
sal, and its extent general; not a house, not a
family that had any thing to lose, but lost
something by the storm; the sea, the land,
the houses, the churches, the trees, the rivers,
all felt the fury of the winds. Fire of
London,
damages
compared
with those
of the
storm.

114 ACCOUNT OF THE

Therefore many people were of opinion that the damage done by the tempest far exceeded that done by the fire.

But the loss of so many valuable lives is irreparable; and puts a stop to all calculation!

Severn
banks.
Sheep, &c.

The damage done by the tide on the banks of the Severn, amounted to above two hundred thousand pounds; fifteen thousand sheep drowned in one level; multitudes of cattle on all the sides; and the covering the lands with salt water is a damage not easily estimated. The high tide at Bristol damaged incredible quantities of sugar, tobacco, and other merchandize.

It is impossible to describe the general calamity. The most can be done is to lead the imagination to supply what is omitted. An infinite variety of incidents happened at the same time in every place, which cannot be expected to be related.

S E C T. IV.

Damages on and by the Water.

THOUGH this consists of several parts, relating to public and private loss; to the merchant, or the navy; to floods by the tides, to damages by the river, and those by the sea; for brevity's sake they are placed under the following heads.

The

STORM IN 1703. 115

The season, both before and after the tempest, was so exceeding and continually stormy, that the seas were, in a manner, unnavigable, and trade at a kind of general stop: when the storm was over, and the weather became tolerable, almost all the shipping in England was more or less out of repair; for there was very little shipping in the nation but what had received some damage.

A nation so full of shipping must needs be exceeding sufferers in such a general disaster: whoever considers the violence of this storm by the other dreadful effects, will rather wonder there were no greater damages received.

I. Damage to Trade.

Ships which were at sea when the storm began, and had no shelter, or port to make for their safety, and of which there was no other account than that they were never heard of, were reckoned at forty-three.

The public are obliged for the following account, from on board her majesty's ship ^{Milford-Haven.} the *Dolphin*, in Milford haven, to capt. Soanes, commodore of a fleet of men of war in that harbour.

Her majesty's ships the *Cumberland*, *Coventry*, *Loo*, *Hastings*, and *Hector*, being under my command, with the *Rye*, a cruizer on this station, and under our convoy about an hundred and thirty merchant ships bound about land; the 26th of November at one

Cumber-
land man
of war.
Rye
cruizer.

in the afternoon the wind came at South-by-East a hard gale, between which and North-west-by-West it came to a dreadful storm; at three the next morning was the violentest weather, when the Cumberland broke her sheet-anchor, the ship driving near *this*, and the Rye, both narrowly escaped carrying away; she drove very nigh the rocks, having but one anchor left; but in little time they flung a gun, with the broken anchor fast to it, which they let go, and wonderfully preserved the ship from the shore. Guns firing from one ship or other all the night for help, though it was impossible to assist each other, the sea was so high, and the darkness of the night such, that we could not see where any one was, but by the flashes of the guns: when day-light appeared, it was a dismal sight to behold the ships driving up and down, one foul of another, without masts, some sunk, others upon the rocks; the wind blowing so hard, with thunder, lightning, and rain, that on the deck a man could not stand without holding. Some drove from *Dale*, where they were sheltered under the land, and split in pieces, the men all drowned; two others drove out of a creek, one on the shore so high up was saved, the other on the rocks in another creek, and bulged; an Irish ship that lay with a rock through her, was lifted by the sea clear away to the other side of the creek on a safe place; one ship forced ten miles

miles up the river before she could be stopped; and several strangely blown into holes, and on banks; a ketch of Pembroke was drove on the rocks, the two men and a boy in her had no boat to save their lives; but in this great distress a boat which broke from another ship drove by them, without any in her, the two men leaped into her, and were saved, but the boy was drowned. A prize at Pembroke was lifted on the bridge, whereon is a mill, which the water blew up, but the vessel got off again; another vessel carried almost into the gateway which leads to the bridge, and is a road, the tide flowing several feet above its common course. The storm continued till the 27th about three in the afternoon; by computation nigh thirty merchant ships, and vessels without masts, are lost, and what men are lost is not known: three ships are missing, that we suppose men and all are lost. None of her majesty's ships came to any harm; but the Cumberland breaking her anchor in a storm which happened the 18th at night, lost another, which rendered her incapable of proceeding. I saw several trees and houses which were blown down.

Prize at
Pembroke.

Merchant
ships lost.

JO. SOANES.

The reverend Mr. *Thomas Chest* minister of *Chepstow*, gave the following account of the effects of the storm in his neighbourhood.

Chepstow.
Rev. Mr.
Chest.

113 ACCOUNT OF THE

Friday November 26, 1703, in the evening, the wind was very high, but about midnight it broke out with more than wonted violence, and continued till break of day. The loudest cracks were about four o'clock. The inhabitants suffered the common calamity of houses shattered and trees blown down.

Salt-makers.

The wind throwing the tide very strongly into the Severn, and so into Wye, on which Chepstow is situated; and the fresh in Wye meeting with a rampant tide, overflowed the lower part of the town: it came into several houses above four feet high. The damage to salt-makers was about two hundred pounds.

Chepstow bridge.

The bridge was a strange sight! It stands partly in Monmouthshire and partly in Gloucestershire, and is mostly built of wood, with a stone pier in the midst, the centre of which divides the counties: there are stone platforms in the bottom of the river to bear the wood-work: over these there are wooden standards framed into piers forty-two feet high, besides groundfils, cap-heads, sleepers, planks, and, on each side of the bridge, rails which make about six feet more; the tide came over them all. The length of the wooden part of the bridge in Monmouthshire is sixty yards, and about the same in Gloucestershire; the Gloucestershire side suffered

STORM IN 1703. 119

suffered little; but in Monmouthshire side the planks were most of them carried away, the sleepers (about a tun by measure each) were many of them carried away, and several removed: it is not doubted but the wooden piers would have gone too, but the outward sleepers on each side were pinned or bolted to the cap-heads, and so kept them in their places.

All the south part of Monmouthshire, Monmouthshire moors. called the Moors, was overflowed: it is a track of about twenty miles long, all level, save two or three points of high-land, the broadest part about two miles and a half: this tide came five tides before the top of the spring, according to the usual run, which very much surprized people. Many cattle got to shore, but some died after landing. By a moderate computation, the loss in hay and cattle was between three and four thousand pounds: one man was drowned who ventured in quest of his master's cattle. The people were carried off, by boats, and other-ways, the days following; some not till Tuesday evening. What uneasiness and astonishment must they suffer in that interval! Repairing the sea-walls was very charge- Sea-walls. able, and the land worth little for two or three years after.

Gloucestershire that borders upon Severn Gloucestershire, suffered deeply on the forest of Deane side, but nothing in comparison of the other shore:

120 ACCOUNT OF THE

Seventy
failors
drowned.

from about Harlingham to the mouth of Bristol river Avon, particularly from Aust Cliff to the river's mouth, about eight miles, all the marsh was drowned. Many cattle and sheep were lost. About seventy failors were drowned, out of the Canterbury store-ship, and other ships that were stranded or wrecked. The Arundel man of war, Suffolk and Canterbury store-ships, a French prize, and a Dane, were driven ashore and damnified. The Richard and John, of five hundred tons, from Virginia, was staved: the George and the Grace sunk, and the number of people lost, variously reported. The Shoreham rode it out in King-road. One Nelms was carried away, with his wife and four children, house and all, and were lost, only one girl, who was preserved by catching hold of a bough.

Glou-
cester.

The damages in the city of Gloucester were computed at twelve thousand pounds; above fifteen thousand sheep drowned in the levels on the side of the Severn; the sea-walls were damaged to the value of five thousand pounds: all the country lay under water for twenty or thirty miles together on both sides, and the tide rose three feet higher than the tops of the banks.

Betesley.

Saturday about eleven o'clock, Mr. Churchman who kept the inn at Betesley, a passage over the Severn, and had a share in the passing boats, seeing a single man tossed in

in a wood-bufs off in the river, prevailed with some belonging to the customs, to carry him, one of his sons, and two servants, aboard the boat, and the officers desired Mr. Churchman to take out the man, and come ashore with them in their pinnace: but he, willing to save the boat as well as the man, tarried aboard, and sometime after hoisting sail, the boat overfet, and they were all drowned, the man, Mr. Churchman, his son, and two servants.—

The reverend Mr. Thomas Little, a clergyman at Lynn in the county of Norfolk, on the best information he could get from merchants and ship-masters, found that seven ships were lost from that port, valued at three thousand pounds, and in them twenty men perished. Lynn.

The damage sustained in the buildings of that town was computed at one thousand pounds at least.

Mr. Daniel James was an eye-witness of most of the following material circumstances and fatal effects of the great tempest at Bristol Bristol. and parts adjacent.

Saturday, November 27th, between one and two in the morning arose a most prodigious storm of wind, which continued for the space of six hours, in which time it very much shattered the buildings, both public and private, by uncovering houses, throwing down chimnies, breaking glass windows, over-

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overthrowing pinnacles and battlements of churches, and blowing off the leads; the churches in particular felt the fury of the storm; the cathedral had two windows and several battlements blown down, and was otherwise much defaced; from the tower of St. Stephen's three pinnacles were blown down, which beat down the greatest part of the church; most churches in the city felt its force. It blew down abundance of great trees in the Marsh, College-green, St. James's church-yard, and other places in the city; and in the country it blew down and scattered abundance of hay and corn-mows, almost levelling many orchards and groves of stout trees. But the greatest damage done to the city was the violent overflowing of the tide, occasioned by the force of the wind, which flowed an extraordinary height, and did abundance of damage to merchants cellars; it broke in with great fury over the marsh country, forcing down the banks, or sea-walls, drowning abundance of sheep and other cattle; washing some houses clear away, and breaking down part of others, in which many persons lost their lives. It drove most of the ships in Kingroad a considerable way upon the land, some being much shattered, and one large vessel broke all in pieces, and near all the men lost, and several lost out of other vessels. The tide filled the cellars, spoiled a thousand hogsheds of sugar,

sugar, fifteen hundred hogsheads of tobacco, and the damage done in that city alone, in merchandize, houses, &c. was computed to an hundred thousand pounds; besides great loss in the country, of cattle, corn, hay, &c. which ruined many farmers, whose substance consisted in their stock. Above eighty persons were drowned in the marshes and rivers, whole families perishing together.

The reverend Mr. Samuel Woodeson, minister of Huntspill in Somersetshire, gave Huntspill. the ensuing information of the damage his parish sustained.

The parish of Huntspill received great damage by the inundation of the salt water: <sup>Inunda-
tion.</sup> the west part suffered most. On the 27th of November, about four in the morning, a mighty south-west wind blew so strong, as in a little time strangely tore the sea-walls, inso-much that a considerable part were laid smooth; after which, the sea coming in with great violence, drove in five vessels, belonging to Bridgewater-key, out of the channel, upon a wharf which lay some distance, where they were all grounded: the seamen fathomed the depth there, and found it about nine feet, which is four feet above the walls when standing: the salt-water soon overflowed all the west end of the parish; forcing many of the inhabitants from their dwellings to shift for their lives; several houses were thrown down, in one a woman aged

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aged fourscore was drowned: some families took shelter in the church, and staid there till the waters abated. The windows of the church and chancel were much broken, great part of the chancel untiled; much of the lead of the church was damnified; three window leaves of the tower were blown down, and the ruff-cast scaled off in many places. The parsonage house, barn and walls, and some neighbouring houses, received great damage. At the west end of the parsonage house stood a very large elm, four yards and a quarter and half in circumference, it was broken off near the ground by the wind, without forcing any one of the moars above the surface, but remained as they were before. The inhabitants received great losses in sheep and other cattle, and very considerable spoil was made in corn and hay.

Large
elm.

Mr. Christ. Chave gave the following account of what happened at Minehead in Somersetshire.

Mine-
head.

All the ships in the harbour, (about twenty-four beside fishing boats) were (except two) through the violence of the storm, and the mooring posts giving way, drove from their anchors; one of them was flaved to pieces, nine drove ashore, some of them very much damnified: several fishing boats, with their nets and other necessaries, were destroyed. Three seamen were drowned, and one man was squeezed to death, by one of the ships that

that was forced ashore coming suddenly upon him as they were digging round her, endeavouring to get her off.

The pier was injured, the church almost untiled; the neighbouring churches received much damage; the houses of the town, and all the country round about, were most of them damaged; some blown down, and several in great measure uncovered; trees of very great bigness were broken off in the middle, and vast numbers blown down; one gentleman had two thousand five hundred trees blown down. Trees.

Mr. William Jones of Swanzy in Wales, Swanzy. upon enquiry in that neighbourhood, found the underwritten to be certainly true.

The storm began there about midnight, but was most violent about four next morning; at which time the greatest part of the houses in the town were uncovered, and one house clearly blown down; the damage sustained modestly computed at two hundred pounds. The south isle of the church was wholly uncovered, and considerable hurt done to the other isles; four large stones weighing about two hundred pounds each, were blown from the end of the church; three of the four iron spears that stood with vanes on the corners of the tower, were broke off short in the middle, and the vanes not to be found; the tail of the weathercock, which stood in the middle of the tower,

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tower, was broke off short in the middle, and found at four hundred yards distance. In Cline wood, belonging to the duke of Beaufort, there were about an hundred large trees blown down; and about eighty large oaks in a wood on the river, belonging to Mr. Thomas Mansell of Britonferry. The tides did not much damage, but two ships were blown off the bar; one came a-ground on the salt-house point near the harbour; the other came on shore, but was saved. There were several stacks of corn overturned in the parishes of Royfily and Largenny in Gower; most of the thatched houses were uncovered.

Royfily.
Largenny
in Gower.

The following account of damages by Mr. Grimfby. Thomas Fairweather of Grimfby in Lincolnshire, was taken for very favourable.

The dreadful tempest did not much affect them on shore at Grimfby. The whole fleet then at anchor in the road consisted of about one hundred sail, fifty whereof were wanting after the storm: the wrecks of four were to be seen in the road at low water, their men all lost; three more were sunk near the Spurn, all the men but one were saved; six or seven were driven ashore, but got off again with little damage. A small hoy, not having a man aboard, was taken at sea by a merchant-man.

The reverend Mr. Banks, minister of Hull, a gentleman of very extraordinary character, endeavoured to obtain as many particulars

particulars as possible of the harm the dreadful tempest did in the Humber, but could obtain no exact account: for the mischief was done in the night, which was so pitch-dark, that of above eighty ships that then rid in the Humber, about Grimsby-road, very few escaped some loss or other; and none of them were able to give a relation of any but themselves.

The best account that reverend gentleman could obtain of the effects of the storm was from Mr. Peter Walls, master of the watch-tower called the Spurn-light, at the Humber mouth, who was present there on the night of the 26th of November, the fatal night of the storm.

Mr. Walls did verily believe his pharos, which was above twenty feet high, would have been blown down; and the tempest made the fire in it burn so vehemently that it melted down the iron bars, on which it laid, like lead; so that they were forced, when the fire was by this means almost extinguished, to put in new bars, and kindle the fire afresh; which they kept in till the morning light appeared: and then, about six or seven and twenty sail of ships were observed, all driving about the Spurn-head; some having cut, others broke, their cables, but all disabled, and rendered helpless. These were part of the two fleets that lay in the Humber, being put in there by stress of weather a day

day or two before; some from Russia, and the rest colliers, to and from Newcastle. Of these, three were driven upon an island called the Den, within the Spurn in the mouth of the Humber.

The first of these no sooner touched ground, but she overfet, and turned up her bottom; out of which only one of her company (six) was lost, being in the shrouds; the other five were taken up by the second ship, who had saved their boat. In this boat all the rest of the men of the three ships were saved, and came to Mr. Walls's house at the Spurn-head, who got them good fires, and all accommodations necessary for them in such distress. The second ship, having nobody on board, was driven to sea with the violence of the tempest, and never seen or heard of more. The third, which was then a-ground, was supposed to be broken up and driven; for nothing, but some coals which were in her, was to be seen next morning.

Grimsb
road.

Another ship, the day after, was riding in Grimsby-road, and the ship's company (except two boys) being ashore, the ship, with the two lads in her, drove directly out of the Humber, and was lost. The boys were supposed to have been saved by one of the Russia ships, or convoys.

The same day in the morning one John Baines, a Yarmouth master, was in his ship, riding in Grimsby-road, and by the violence
of

STORM IN 1703. A 129

of the storm, some other ships coming foul upon him, part of his ship was broken down, and driven toward sea; whereupon he anchored under Kilnsey-land, and with his crew came safe ashore in his boat, but the ship was never seen more. Kilnsey-land.

The remainder of the six, or seven and twenty sail being driven out of the Humber, very few, if any, were ever heard of. Though the storm was not so violent there as about Portsmouth, Yarmouth-roads, and the southern-coasts, yet the crews of the three ships declared they were never out in so dismal a night as that of the 26th of November, in which the considerable fleet aforesaid rid in Grimsby-road in the Humber; for most of the eighty sail broke from their anchors, and run foul one upon another; and by reason of the darkness of the night, they could see very little of the mischief that was done.

Mr. Thomas Reade gave the best account he could procure of what happened at Newport, and other parts of the isle of Wight. Isle of Wight.

Several houses were blown down, and many houses in town, and all parts of the island, uncovered. A vessel laden with tin was driven from her anchors in Cornwall, and stranded at Newport, having spent her main-mast and all her sails. Sunday night several ships were stranded on the south and south-west parts of the island; one or two laden with Tin ship stranded.

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with cork; two or three with Portugal wine, oranges and lemons; one with hides and butter; one with sugar; one with pork, beef, and oatmeal; and one with flates. Monday night, Tuesday and Wednesday came on the back of the island, and some in at the Needles, the fleet that went out with the king of Spain, but in a dreadful storm and dark weather.

The effects of the dreadful tempest were very terrible and melancholy at Bright-helmstone in Suffex.

It began about one in the morning: the violence of the wind stripped a great many houses; turned up the leads of the church; overthrew two windmills, and laid them flat on the ground: the town in general, upon approach of day-light, looked as if it had been bombarded. Several vessels were lost, others stranded and driven on shore, others forced over to Holland and Hamburgh, to the great impoverishing the place. Derick Pain, junior, master of the Elizabeth ketch of this town, lost, with all his company. George Taylor, master of the ketch Happy Entrance, lost, and his company, except Walter Street, who swimming three days on a mast between the Downs and North Yarmouth, was at last taken up. Richard West, master of the ketch Richard and Rose of Brighthelmstone, lost, with all his company, near St. Helen's. Edward Friend, master of the

the ketch Thomas and Francis, stranded near Portsmouth. Edward Glover, master of the pink Richard and Benjamin, stranded near Chichester, lost one of his men, and he and the rest of his company forced to hang in the shrouds several hours. The pink Mary, George Beach, junior, master, driven over to Hamburg from the Downs, having lost his anchor, cables, and sails. Robert Kitchener, master of the Cholmley pink of Brighton, lost near the Roseant, with nine men, five men and a boy saved by another vessel: besides the loss of several able seamen aboard of her majesty's ships, transports and tenders.

Mr. James Baker made enquiry concerning the disasters at Lymington.

A Guernsey privateer, coming through the Needles, lost his fore-top-mast, and cut his main-mast by the board, had twelve men washed overboard, and by toss of another immediate sea, three of them were put on board again, and did well. Six stacks of chimnies were blown from a great house called New Park in the forest; some that stood directly to windward were blown clear off the house without injuring the roof, or house, or inhabitants, and fell some yards from the house. Above four thousand trees were torn up by the roots in her majesty's forest called New Forest, some of them of very great bulk.

The Assistance, a ship about two hundred tons from Maryland, laden with tobacco, was

Lymington.

Guernsey privateer.

New park.

New forest.

The Assistance.

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Overflow-
ing at
Hurst
beach.

cast away upon Hurst beach; one of the mates and four sailors were lost. By the flowing of the sea over Hurst beach two salterns were almost ruined, belonging to Mr. Perkins. In the town some houses were stripped of the healing, windows were broke, and chimnies blown down. A new barn nigh the town was blown quite down. The damage was very considerable among the farmers in the adjacent places, by overturning barns, out-houses, stacks of corn and hay; and among poor families and small houses: abundance of trees of all sorts, especially elms and apple-trees, were destroyed upon the estates thereabout.

Lyme
Regis.

Damages done at Lyme-Regis, and parts adjacent, in the county of Dorset; vouched for true by Mr. Stephen Bowbridge.

Guernsey
privateer.

Sea-town.

Five boats drove out of the Cob, and one vessel lost. Most of the houses had some damage. Many trees were blown up by the roots in the neighbourhood, and four miles to the eastward of the town. A Guernsey privateer of eight guns and forty-three men drove ashore, at Sea-town, half a mile from Chidock, and but three of the men saved. Most of the houses at Chidock were uncovered, and a man killed in bed. All villages suffered extremely in houses, and trees, both elms and apples without number.

Chidock.

Margate:

At Margate in the isle of Thanet in Kent, hardly a house escaped without damage; most

most part of the tiles were blown totally off from the roofs; several chimnies blown down, which broke through the houses to the ground; several families narrowly escaped being killed in their beds. Part of the leads of the church were blown clear off, and great damage to the church itself. The churches of St. Laurence Minster, Mownton, and St. Nicholas, received a great deal of damage.

Most little towns, villages, and farms on the island suffered much in their houses, barns, stables and out-houses, many of them being blown down to the ground.

In Margate road, one Latchford of Sandwich, bound home from London, with divers men and women passengers, was blown out, and totally lost: another little pink blown away at the same time, and not heard of.

Latchford
of Sand-
wich.

The Princess Anne, captain Charles Gye, and the Swan, hospital ships, rid out the storm, and received no damage: only capt. Gye was parted from one of his anchors, and part of a cable.

At Malden in Essex, a spire of a steeple was blown down, and the churches much shattered. Between thirty and forty pounds damage was done to the tiling of the principal inn: many houses were ript up, and some blown down. At a gentleman's house (Mr. Moses Bourton) a stack of chimnies fell through

Malden.

through the roof, upon a bed where his children lay, who were dragged out with a narrow escape. Many other chimnies were blown down, and much mischief done.

Several vessels in the harbour were much shattered, especially one laden with corn for London, stranded, and the corn lost to the value of five hundred pounds, and the persons narrowly escaped, by a small boat that relieved them next day.

South-
ampton.

Mr. George Powell gave the following state of Southampton: the town being most part old building, suffered much, few or no houses escaped, being mostly untiled, and many stacks of chimnies blown down: several people bruised: abundance of trees, particularly in the New Forest, blown down, others with limbs of great bigness, torn.

Most of the ships in the river, and those which lay off from the keys, were blown on shore; some partly torn to wrecks; three or four blown so far on shore that the owners were at the charge of unlading them and digging large channels for the spring-tides to float them off: it being a soft sand, or mud, with much-a-do, they got them off, with little damage. No lives were lost, though some narrowly escaped.

Downs.

A plain letter from the Downs will best describe the horror and consternation the poor sailors were in; though there are some mistakes in the number of ships and men lost.

" SIR,

"SIR,

"These lines, I hope in God, will find you in good health, we are all left here in a dismal condition, expecting every moment to be all drowned; for here is a great storm, and is very likely to continue. We have here the rear admiral of the Blue, in the ship called the Mary, a third rate, the very next ship to ours, sunk, with admiral Beaumont, and above five hundred men, drowned; the Northumberland, a third rate, about five hundred men, all sunk, and drowned; the Stirling-castle, a third rate, sunk, and drowned above five hundred souls; the Restoration, a third rate, all sunk and drowned: these ships were all close by us, which I saw: these ships fired their guns all night and day long, poor souls, for help, but the storm being so fierce and raging, could have none to save them, The Shrewsbury, that we are in, broke two anchors, and did run mighty fierce backwards, within sixty or eighty yards of the sands; and, as God Almighty would have it, we flung out our sheet anchor, which is the biggest, and so stopped: here we all prayed to God to forgive us our sins, and to save us, or else to receive us into his heavenly kingdom. If our sheet-anchor had given way, we had been all drowned: but I humbly thank God it was his gracious mercy that saved us. There's one captain Fanel's ship,

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three hospital ships, all split : some sunk, and most of the men drowned.

There are above forty merchant-ships cast away and sunk. To see admiral Beaumont, that was next us, and all the rest of his men, how they climed up the main-mast, hundreds at a time, crying out for help, and thinking to save their lives, and in the twinkling of an eye were drowned. I can give you no account but of these four men of war aforesaid, which I saw with my own eyes, and those hospital ships, at present, by reason the storm has drove us far distant from one another. Captain Crow, of our ship believes, we have lost several more men of war, by reason we see so few. We lie here in great danger, and waiting for a north-easterly wind to bring us to Portsmouth, and it is our prayers to God for it; for we know not how soon this storm may arise, and cut us all off; for it is a dismal place to anchor in. I have not had my cloaths off, nor a wink of sleep, these four nights, and have got my death with cold almost.

Your's to command,

MILES NORCLIFFE.

I send this, having opportunity, by our boats, that went ashore to carry some poor men off, that were almost dead, and were taken up swimming.

The

The next paragraph is more authentic, and particular, and will farther describe the terror of that night in the Downs.

A ship was blown from her anchors out of Helford Haven to the isle of Wight, in less than eight hours. The ship lay in Helford Haven, about two leagues and a half westward of Falmouth, being laden with tin, which was taken on board from Guague wharf, about five or six miles up Helford river, the commander's name was Anthony Jenkins of Falmouth. About eight in the evening before the storm begun, the commander and mate came on board, and ordered the crew he left on board (which was only one man and two boys) that if the wind should chance to blow hard, which he had some apprehension of, to carry out the small bower anchor, and moor the ship with two anchors; and gave them some other orders; and he and his mate went ashore, and left the crew aboard. About nine the wind began to blow: they carried out the small bower, as directed; it continued blowing harder and harder, at west-north-west; at last the ship began to drive, then they were forced to let go the best bower anchor, which brought the ship up. The storm increasing more, they were obliged to let go the kedge anchor, which was all they had to let go; so that the ship rid with four anchors a-head. Between eleven and twelve the wind came about west and

Helford
Haven.
Ship
blown to
isle of
Wight.

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and by south, in a most terrible and violent manner, that notwithstanding a very high hill just to windward of the ship, and four anchors a-head, she was drove from all her anchors, and about twelve o'clock drove out of the harbour, without anchor or cable, not so much as a boat left in case they should put into any harbour. In this dreadful condition the ship drove out, clear of the rocks to sea; where the man with the two boys consulted what to do; at last resolved to keep her far enough to sea, for fear of Deadman's Head, being a point of land between Falmouth and Plymouth; the latter of which places they designed to run her in, if possible, to save their lives. The next morning, in this frightened condition, they steered her clear of the land, to the best of their skill, sometimes almost under water, and sometimes a-top, with only the bonet of her fore-sail out, and the fore-yard almost lowered to the deck; but instead of getting into Plymouth next day, as intended, they were far enough off that port; next morning they saw land, which proved to be Pevel Point, a little to the westward of the isle of Wight; so that they were in a worse condition than before; for over-running their designed port, by seven o'clock they found themselves off the isle of Wight; where they consulted again what to do to save their lives: one of the boys was for running her

Dead-
man's
Head.

into the Downs; but that was objected against, because they had no anchors nor boat; and the storm blowing off shore in the Downs, they should be blown on the unfortunate Goodwin sands, and lost. Now comes the last consultation for their lives: one of the boys said, he had been in a certain creek in the isle of Wight, where, between the rocks, he believed there was room enough to run the ship in, and save their lives; he desired to have the helm from the man, and he would venture to steer the ship into the said place, which accordingly they did, where there was just room between rock and rock for the ship to come in, where she gave one blow or two against the rocks, and sunk immediately; but the man and boys jumped ashore: and all the lading being tin, was saved. For their conduct, and the risk they run, they were all very well rewarded; and the merchants well satisfied.

Great notice was taken of the town-people of Deal, who were highly blamed for their barbarity, in neglecting to save the lives of abundance of poor wretches, who having hung upon the masts and rigging of the ships, or flated upon broken pieces of wrecks, had gotten ashore on the Goodwin sands when the tide was out.

It was a sad spectacle to behold the poor seamen walking to and fro upon the sands; to view their postures, and the signals they made

Deal.
Goodwin
Sands.

made for help ! which by the assistance of glasses were easily seen from the shore.

Here they had a few hours reprieve, but had neither present refreshment, nor any hopes of life; for they were sure all to be washed into another world at the reflux of the tide. Some boats are said to have gone very near them in quest of booty, in search of plunder, and to carry off what they could pillage; but nobody concerned themselves for the lives of their miserable and suffering fellow-creatures !

There was one person in the town whose humanity, courage and charity deserve remembrance. The account of his behaviour ought to be transmitted to posterity, as an example proper for imitation on the like occasions.

Mr. Thos.
Powell,
mayor of
Deal.

Mr. Thomas Powell, a sloop-seller at Deal, at that time mayor of the town, found himself greatly moved with compassion at the distresses of those poor creatures whom he saw in that miserable condition upon the sands: he made application to the custom-house officers for assistance by their boats and men, to save the lives of as many as they could come at; but the officers rudely refused both men and boats.

Provoked with the unnatural carriage of the custom-house men, the mayor called the people about him; finding some of the common sort began to be more than ordinarily affected

affected with the distresses of their countrymen, and, as he thought, a little inclined to venture, he made a general offer to all that would venture out, that he would pay them five shillings per head for all the men whose lives they could save: on this proposal several offered themselves, if the mayor would furnish boats.

Finding the main point clear, that the men were willing, he, with their assistance, took away the custom-house boats by force: he knew he could not justify it, and might be brought into trouble about it; and particularly if they were lost might be obliged to pay for them; yet he resolved to venture that, rather than hazard his design for saving so many poor men's lives. Having manned a boat with a crew of stout honest fellows, he with them took away several other boats, from persons who made no other use of them than to rob and plunder, not regarding the distresses of the poor men.

Being thus provided with men and boats, he sent them off; and by this means brought on shore above two hundred men, whose lives would, otherwise, in a few minutes have been infallibly lost: for when the tide came in, and it was too late to go off again, all that were left were swallowed up with the raging sea.

Mr. Powell's next care was to relieve the poor creatures whom he had saved, who

were

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were almost dead with hunger and cold, naked and starving: first, he applied to the queen's agent for sick and wounded seamen; but he would not relieve them with one penny; whereupon Mr. Mayor, at his own charge, furnished them with meat, drink, and lodging.

Next day several of them died; the extremities they had suffered having too much mastered their spirits: these he was also forced to bury at his own charge, the agent still refusing to disburse one penny.

After their refreshment, the poor men, assisted by the mayor, made fresh application to the agent for conduct-money, to help them to London: he answered, he had no order, and would disburse nothing: whereupon the mayor gave them all money in their pockets, and passes to Gravesend.

This gentleman deserved the thanks of the government, and an immediate re-imbursement of his money. He met with great obstructions and delays; but after long attendance, obtained re-payment of his money; and some small allowance for his time spent in soliciting for it.

The damage suffered in the river Thames
Thames. ought not to be forgotten.

It was strange to find all the ships blown away from the river; the Pool was so clear, that not above four ships were left between the upper part of Wapping and Ratcliff-cross, for.

for the tide being up when the storm blew with the greatest violence, no anchors or land-fast, no cable or moorings, could hold them: the chains, which lay cross the river, for mooring of ships, all gave way.

The ships breaking loose, it was amazing to see the hurry and confusion: and as some ships had nobody on board, and a great many had none but a man or boy to look after the vessel, there was nothing to be done, but to let every vessel drive whither and how she would.

Those who know the reaches of the river, and how they lie, know well enough, that the wind being south-west, westerly, the vessels would naturally drive into the bite or bay from Ratcliff-cross to Limehouse-hole; for that the river winding about again from thence toward the New dock at Deptford, runs almost due south-west; so that the wind blew down one reach and up another, the ships must of necessity drive into the bottom of the angle between both.

As this was the case, the place not large, and the number of ships very great, the force of the wind had driven them so into one another, and laid them so upon one another, as it were in heaps, that the whole world may be safely defied to do the like. Those who viewed the place, and posture of the vessels, the next day, imagined their situation impossible to describe. There lay, by the best account

count could be taken, near seven hundred sail of ships, some very great ones, between Shadwel and Limehouse, inclusive: the posture is not to be imagined, but by those who saw it; some vessels lay heeling off, with the bow of another ship over her waste, and the stem of another upon her fore-castle; the boltsprits of some drove into the cabin windows of others; some lay with their stems turned up so high, that the tide flowed into their fore-castles before they could come to rights; some lay so leaning upon others, that the undermost vessels would sink before the other could float; the number of masts, boltsprits and yards split and broke; the staving heads, stems and carved work; tearing and destruction of rigging; squeezing boats to pieces between the ships, could not be reckoned. There was hardly a vessel to be seen that had not suffered some damage, in one or all those articles.

Several vessels were sunk in the hurry, but as they were generally light ships, the damage was chiefly to the vessels: but there were two ships sunk with great quantity of goods on board; the Russel galley at Limehouse, laden with bale goods for the Streights; and the Sarah galley laden for Leghorn, sunk at an anchor at Blackwall: she was afterward weighed and brought on shore, yet her back was broke, and so otherwise disabled, that she was never afterward

ward fit for the sea. There were several men drowned in the two last mentioned ships.

Near Gravesend several ships drove on shore below Tilbury-fort; among them, five bound for the West-Indies; but as the shore is ouzy and soft, the vessels sat upright and easy: the high tides which followed, and were the ruin of so many in other places, were the deliverance of all these ships, whose lading and value were very great: for the tide rising to an unusual height, floated them all off; and the damage was not so great as was expected.

An account of the loss, and particulars relating to the small craft in the river, were impossible to collect, otherwise than by generals:

The watermen reckoned above five hundred wherries lost, most of which were not sunk only, but dashed to pieces against each other, or against the ships and shores where they lay. Ship boats without number were driven about in every corner, sunk and staved; of which about three hundred were supposed to be lost. Above sixty barges and lighters were found driven foul of the bridge; and sixty more sunk or staved between the bridge and Hammersmith. Abundance of lighters and barges drove quite through the bridge, and took their fate below, whereof many were lost.

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In

In all this confusion, it cannot be supposed but that many lives were lost: but as the Thames oftentimes buries those it drowns, there could be no account taken. Two watermen at Black-friars were drowned endeavouring to save their boat: a boat was overfet near Fulham, and five persons drowned.

According to the best accounts, only twenty-two persons were drowned in the river upon this sad occasion, which, all circumstances considered, were fewer than expected: and the damage done to shipping, compared with the vast number of ships then in the river, the violence of the storm, and the height of the tide, confirm an opinion of many skilful men, that the river Thames is the best harbour of Europe.

The height of the tide did not great damage in the river Thames; none of the levels or marshes, which lie on each side the river, were overflowed with it: it filled the cellars, indeed, at Gravesend, and on both sides at London, and the ale-house keepers suffered some loss in their beer, and abundance of other persons, whose warehouses were near the river in many other commodities; but inconsiderable in comparison.

From Yarmouth terrible news was impatiently expected; as there was a very great fleet there of laden colliers, Russia-men and others, nothing was expected but a dreadful destruction

destruction among them: the loss was very great, but not in proportion to other places.

The Reserve man of war was come in but a day or two before, convoy to the great fleet from Russia, and the captain, surgeon, and clerk, who after so long a voyage, went ashore with two boats to refresh themselves, and buy provisions, had the mortification to stand on shore and see the ship sink before their faces; she foundered about eleven o'clock; and as the sea went too high for any help to go off from shore, and their own boats being both on shore, not one man was saved. One Russia ship driving from her anchors, and running foul of a laden collier, sunk by his side; some of the men were saved by getting aboard the collier. Three or four small vessels were driven out to sea, and never heard of more. Most of the colliers were driven from their anchors, but going away to sea, not many of them were lost: which may thus be accounted for.

By all relations, the storm was not so violent farther northward; and as it was not so violent, neither did it continue so long: those ships who found they could not ride it out in Yarmouth roads, but slipping their cables went away to sea, possibly as they went away to the northward, found the weather more moderate, at least not so violent but it might be borne: to this may be added, that it is well known to those who use the coast,

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after they had run the length of Flamborough they had the benefit of the weather-shore, and pretty high land, which, if they took shelter under, might help them very much. These, with other circumstances, made the damage, though very great, much less than every one expected.

Plymouth.

Plymouth felt a full proportion of the storm in its utmost fury: the Edystone was a double loss; the light-house had not been long down, when the Winchelsea, a homeward bound Virginia-man, was split upon the rock where that building stood, and most of her men drowned.

Edystone.

No other particulars were ever heard of the loss of the light-house called the Edystone, than that at night it was standing, in the morning all the upper part from the gallery was blown down, and all the people in it perished; and, by a particular misfortune, Mr. Winstanly, the contriver of it, who was much regretted, as a very useful man to his country.

Three other merchant ships were cast away in Plymouth road, and most of their men lost. The Monk man of war rode it out, but was obliged to cut all her masts by the board; as several men of war did in other places.

Portsmouth.

At Portsmouth there was a great fleet; several of the ships were blown out to sea, whereof some were never heard of more: the

the Newcastle was heard of upon the coast of Suffex, where she was lost, with all her men but twenty-three : The Resolution, the Eagle advice-boat, and the Litchfield's prize, felt the same fate, but saved their men.

From Cowes several ships were driven out to sea, whereof one run on shore in Stokef-bay ; one full of soldiers, and two merchant men, were never heard of. Abundance of ships saved themselves by cutting down their masts, and others stranded, but by help of the ensuing tides got off again.

At Falmouth eleven sail of ships were stranded on the shore, but most of them got off again.

In Barnstable harbour a merchant-ship outward bound was overfet ; and the Express advice-boat very much shattered, and the key of the town almost destroyed.

Several ships from the Downs were driven over to the coast of Holland ; some saved themselves there ; but others were lost. There was an account of eleven ships driven to that coast ; most of which were lost, but the men saved.

Portsmouth, Plymouth, Weymouth, and most of our sea-port towns, looked as if they had been bombarded ; and the damage not easily computed.

France felt the general shock, particularly the piers and rice-bank at Dunkirk, the harbour at

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Havre-de-grace; from the towns of Calais and Boulogne, there were strange accounts.

Dunkirk. All the vessels in the road before Dunkirk, about twenty-five, were dashed in pieces against the pier-heads, not one excepted; that side being a lee-shore, the reason is plain there was no going off to sea. Had it been so in the Downs or Yarmouth roads, it would have fared with us in the same manner, and three hundred sail in Yarmouth roads had inevitably perished.

At Dieppe the like mischief happened; and Paris felt the effects as bad, and, as some thought, worse than London. A great variety of accidents happened in that country.

All the north-east countries felt it: the accounts from Holland in general were very dismal.

Sir Cloudefley Shovel. It was past human power to compute the damage done to the ships that were saved. The admiral Sir Cloudefley Shovel, with the great ships, had made sail but the day before out of the Downs, and were taken with the storm as they lay at or near the Gunfleet: where, they being well provided with anchors and cables, rid it out, though in great extremity, expecting death every minute.

Associa- tion. The Association, a second rate, on board whereof was Sir Stafford Fairborn, was one of Sir Cloudefley's fleet, and was blown from the mouth of the Thames to the coast of Norway: a particular whereof, as printed in the

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the Annals of the Reign of Queen Anne, is as follows.

An Account of Sir Stafford Fairborn's distress in the late Storm.

Her majesty's ship Association, a second rate of ninety-six guns, commanded by sir Stafford Fairborn, vice-admiral of the Red, and under him captain Richard Canning, sailed from the Downs the 24th of November, in company with seven other capital ships, under the command of the honourable sir Cloudesley Shovel, admiral of the White, in their return from Leghorn up the river. They anchored that night off the Long-sand-head; the next day struck yards and top-masts. The 27th, about three in the morning, the wind at West-south-west, increased to a hurricane, which drove the Association from her anchors. The night was exceeding dark; but what was more dreadful, the Galloper (a very dangerous sand) was under her lee; so that she was in danger of striking upon it, beyond the power of man to avoid it. Driving thus at the mercy of the waves, about five o'clock she passed over the tail of the Galloper in seven fathom water. The sea, boisterous and angry, was ready to swallow her up; and the ship received at that time a sea on her starboard side, which beat over all, broke and washed several half ports, and forced in the entering port.

She took in such a vast quantity of water, that it kept her down on her side, and every body believed that she could not have risen again, had not the water been speedily let down into the hold by scuttling the decks. During this consternation, two of the lower-gun-deck-ports were pressed open by this mighty weight of water; the most amazing hazardous accident, next to touching the ground, that could have happened. But the port that had been forced open being readily secured by the direction and command of the vice-admiral, (who, though much indisposed, was upon deck all that time) prevented any farther mischief. As the ship still drove with the wind, she was not long in this shoal, (where it was impossible for any ship to live at that time) but came into deeper water, and then she had a smoother sea. However, the hurricane did not abate, but rather seemed to gather strength. For words were no sooner uttered than they were carried away by the wind; so that although those upon deck spoke loud, and close to one another, yet they could not often distinguish what was said; and when they opened their mouths their breath was almost taken away. —Part of the sprit-sail, though fast furled, was blown away from the yard. A ten-oar boat, that was lashed on her starboard side, was often hove up by the strength of the wind, and overset upon her gun-wale. We
plainly

plainly saw the wind skimming upon the water, as if it had been sand, carrying it up into the air, which was then so thick and gloomy, that day-light, which should have been comfortable to us, did but make it appear more ghastly. The sun by intervals peeped through the corner of a cloud, but soon disappearing, gave us a more melancholy prospect of the weather. About eleven o'clock it dispersed the clouds, and the hurricane abated into more a moderate storm, which drove us over to the bank of Flanders, and thence along the coast of Holland and Friesland to the entrance of the Elbe; where the fourth of December we had almost as violent a storm as when we drove from our anchors; the wind at north-west driving us directly upon the shore: so that we must all have inevitably perished, had not a south-west wind favoured us about ten o'clock at night; which gave us an opportunity to put to sea. But being afterward driven near the coast of Norway, the ship wanting anchors and cables, our wood and candles wholly expended; no beer on board, nor any thing in lieu; every one reduced to one quart of water per day; the men, who had been harrassed at Belleisle and in our Mediterranean voyage, now jaded by the continual fatigues of the storms, falling sick every day, the vice-admiral in this exigency thought it advisable to put into Gottenburgh, the only port

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port where we could hope to be supplied. We arrived there the 11th of December; and having, without loss of time, got anchors and cables from Copenhagen, and provisions from Gottenburgh, we sailed thence the third of January, with twelve merchant men under our convoy, all laden with stores for her majesty's navy. The 11th following we prevented four French privateers from taking four of our store ships. At night we anchored off the Long-sand-head; weighed again the next day, but soon came to an anchor, because it was very hazy weather. Here we rid against a violent storm, which was like to have put us to sea. But after three days very bad weather, we weighed, and arrived at the Buoy of the Nore the 23d of January, having run very great risks among the sands. For we had not only contrary, but also very tempestuous winds. We lost twenty-eight men by sickness, contracted by the hardships which they endured in the bad weather; and had not Sir Stafford Fairborn, by his great care and diligence, got the ship out of Gottenburgh, and by that prevented her being frozen up, most part of the sailors had perished afterward by the severity of the winter, which is intolerably cold in those parts.

Damage to the Royal Navy.

Royal
Navy.

The loss immediately sustained by the royal navy during the storm, is hereunto annexed,

annexed, from the navy books. This is a short, but terrible article!

—Prepare to bear

The worst report that ever reach'd your ear.

One friend may mollify another's grief,

But public loss admits of no relief!

The York was lost about three days before the great storm, off Harwich, but most of the men were saved.

A list of such of her majesty's ships, with their commanders' names, as were cast away by the violent Storm on Friday night the 26th of November, 1703; the wind having been from the South-west to West-south-west and the storm continuing from about midnight to past six in the morning.

Northumberland, third rate, 253 men, 70 guns, captain James Greenway; lost in the Goodwin sands. All lost. Men 253, guns 70.

Restoration, third rate, 386 men, 70 guns, capt. Fleetwood Emes; lost in the Goodwin sands. All lost. Men 386, guns 70.

Stirling-castle, third rate, capt. John Johnson; 349 men, 70 guns; lost in the Goodwin sands. Third lieutenant, chaplain, cook, surgeon's mate; four marine captains, and sixty-two men saved. Men lost, 175, guns, 70.

Resolution

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Resolution, third rate, 211 men, 70 guns, capt. Thomas Liell; lost at Pemsley. Officers and men saved. Guns lost, 70.

Reserve, fourth rate, 258 men, 54 guns, capt. John Anderson; lost in Yarmouth roads. Her captain, purser, master, surgeon, clerk, and sixteen men were ashore, the rest drowned. Men lost, 242. Guns, 54.

Mary, fourth rate, 273 men, 64 guns, rear-admiral Beaumont, capt. Edward Hopson: lost in the Goodwin sands. Only one man saved, by swimming from wreck to wreck, and getting to the Stirling-castle: the captain and purser ashore. Men lost, 272. Guns, 64.

Vigo, fourth rate, 212 men, 54 guns, capt. Thomas Long. Lost at Holland. Her company saved, except four. Men lost, 4. Guns, 54.

Newcastle, fourth rate, 233 men, 46 guns, capt. William Carter; drove from Spithead, and lost upon the coast near Chichester. The carpenter, and twenty-three men saved. Men lost, 210. Guns, 46.

Mortar, bomb-vessel, 59 men, 12 guns, capt. Raymond Raymond; lost at Holland. Officers and men saved. Guns lost, 12.

Portsmouth, bomb-vessel, 44 men, 4 guns, capt. George Hawes; lost at the Nore. Officers and men lost. Men lost, 44. Guns, 4.

Eagle,

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Eagle, advice-boat, 42 men, 10 guns, capt. Nathaniel Bostock; lost at Selsey. Officers and men saved. Guns lost, 10.

Canterbury, store-ship, 31 men, 8 guns, capt. Thomas Blake; lost at Bristol. Captain and twenty-five men drowned: the ship recovered, and ordered to be sold.

The loss of small vessels hired into the service, and tending the fleet, could not well be included; several such vessels, and some with soldiers on board, being driven away to sea, and never more heard of.

Total, four third rates; four fourth rates; two bomb-vessels; one advice-boat; and one store-ship.

Total loss of men and guns.

	Men.	Guns.
Northumberland,	253	70
Restoration,	386	70
Stirling-castle,	175	70
Resolution,	—	70
Reserve,	242	54
Mary,	272	64
Vigo,	4	54
Newcastle,	210	46
Mortar,	—	12
Portsmouth,	44	4
Eagle,	—	10
Canterbury,	25	—
	1611	524

There

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There are infinite stories of the like nature with these; the disasters at sea are full of vast variety: what is here recommended to view, may stand as an abridgment. The reader is only to observe, that these are short representations, by which he may guess at the most dreadful night these parts of the world ever knew.

It would be endless to attempt any farther description of losses; no place was free, either by land or by sea; every thing capable felt the fury of the storm: It is hard to say, whether was greater, the loss by sea, or by land; by the most moderate calculation, not less than 160 sail of vessels, of all sorts, were lost in the storm; but the multitude of brave stout sailors is a melancholy subject, and gives the sad balance to the account of the damage by sea.

It is a sad and serious truth! This part is preserved to posterity, to assist them in handing them on for the ages to come; and in reflecting on the judgments and wondrous works of Him, who hath his ways in the seas, and his paths in the great waters, but whose footsteps are not known.

The learned and curious Dr. Derham of Upminster, has published observations concerning the state of the atmosphere during the dismal storm; which are printed in the Philosophical Transactions, N^o. 289. p. 1530.

S E C T.

S E C T. V.

Of remarkable Deliverances.

THE sad disasters of that terrible night were full of dismal variety, yet the goodness of Divine Providence was displayed in many remarkable deliverances, both by sea and by land. God keepeth not his anger for ever, but in the midst of his judgments remembers mercy.

Though the preceding astonishing accounts are interwoven with many hair-breadth escapes from impending dangers, as full of variety and wonder as the disasters: yet was it thought proper to subjoin this section, containing well authenticated relations of the most amazing and wonderful deliverances almost ever heard of.

The sense of extraordinary deliverances, as it is a mark of generous christianity, is likewise a token that a good use has been made of the mercies received.

The persons who desire a thankful acknowledgment should be made to their all-merciful Deliverer, and the wonders of his providence remitted to posterity, at the same time they magnify the glory and mercy of God, from their own mouths and under their own

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own hands, testify their compliance with that pathetic request of the psalmist : *Oh that men would therefore praise the Lord, and declare the wonders that he doth for the children of men !*

The following account of a great deliverance is very remarkable : and attested by gentlemen of the best and clearest reputation.

About three o'clock in the morning, the violence of the wind blew down a stack of chimnies belonging to the dwelling house of Dr. Gideon Harvey, (in St. Martin's Lane, opposite New-street) on the back part of the next house, wherein dwelt Mr. Robert Richards, an apothecary ; captain Theodore Collier and his family lodged in the same. The chimney fell with that force as pierced through the roofs, carrying them quite down to the ground. The two families consisting of fourteen, men, women, and children, beside three that came in from the next house, were, at that instant, disposed of as follows : a footman that usually lay in the back garret, had, not a quarter of an hour before, removed himself into the fore garret, by which means he escaped the danger : in the room under that lay captain Collier's child, of two years old, in bed with the nurse, and a servant maid lay on the bed by her ; the nurse's child lying in a crib by the bed-side, which was found, with the child safe in it, in the kitchen,

Dr. Gideon Harvey, Mr. Robert Richards, Capt. Theodore Collier.

chen, where the nurse and maid likewise found themselves; their bed being shattered to pieces, and they a little bruised by falling down three stories: captain Collier's child was, in about two hours, found, unhurt, in some pieces of the bed and curtains, which had fallen through two floors only, and hung on some broken rafters, in that place which had been the parlour: in the room under this, being one pair of stairs from the street, and two from the kitchen, was captain Collier in bed, his wife just by the bed-side, and her maid a little behind her, who likewise found herself in the kitchen, a little bruised, and ran out to cry for help for her master and mistress, who lay buried under the ruins. Mrs. Collier was, by the timely aid of neighbours who removed the rubbish from her, taken out in about half an hour, having received no hurt but the fright, and an arm a little bruised: captain Collier in about half an hour more was likewise taken out unhurt. In the parlour were sitting Mr. Richards, with his wife, the three neighbours, and the rest of his family, a little boy about a year old lying in the cradle: they all ran out at the first noise, and escaped. Mrs. Richards stayed a little longer than the rest, to pull the cradle with her child in it along with her, but the house fell too suddenly on it, and buried the child under the ruins; a rafter fell on her

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foot, and bruised it a little, but she likewise made her escape, and brought in the neighbours, who soon uncovered the head of the cradle, and cutting it off, took the child out alive and well.

This wonderful preservation being worthy to be transmitted to posterity, we do attest to be true in every particular. Witness our hands,

GIDEON HARVEY, M. D.

THEO. COLLIER.

ROBERT RICHARDS.

Mr.
Woodgate
Gisser, by
Rev. Mr.
James
King.

The reverend James King, lecturer of St. Martin's in the Fields, took the following account from the mouth of the gentleman himself who was the sufferer, Mr. Woodgate Gisser, a neighbour of Mr. King's, in St. Martin's street.

Between two and three in the morning my neighbour's stack of chimnies fell, and broke down the roof of my garret into the passage going up and down stairs; upon which I thought it convenient to retire into the kitchen with my family; where we had not been above a quarter of an hour, before my wife sent her maid to fetch some necessaries out of a back-parlour closet, and as she had shut the door, and was upon her return, the very same instant my neighbour's stack of chimnies, on the other side of the house, fell upon my stack, beat in the roof, and so drove
down

down the several floors, through the parlour into the kitchen, where the maid was buried near five hours in the rubbish, without the least damage or hurt whatsoever. This her miraculous preservation was occasioned (as I afterward with surprize found) by her falling into a small cavity near the bed, and afterward (as she declared) by her creeping under the tester, that lay hollow, by reason of some joists that lay athwart each other, which prevented her perishing in the rubbish. About eight in the morning, when I helped her out of the ruins, and asked her how she did, and why she did not cry out for assistance, since she was not dead, (as I supposed she had been) and so to let me know she was alive? Her answer was, that truly for her part she had felt no hurt, and was not the least affrighted, but lay quiet; and which is more, even slumbered until then.

The preservation of myself and the rest of my family, about eleven in number, was occasioned by our running into a vault almost level with the kitchen, upon the noise and alarm of the falling of the chimnies; which breaking through three floors, and being about two minutes in passing, gave us the opportunity of that retreat.

The following accounts, of like nature, are particularly attested by persons of undoubted reputation and integrity.

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Saracen's
head:
country
lad.

At the Saracen's head in Friday-street, a country lad lodging three pair of stairs, next the roof of the house, was wonderfully preserved from death: about two o'clock Saturday morning, November 27th, there fell a chimney upon the roof under which he lay, and beat it down through the ceiling (the weight of the tiles, bricks, &c. being judged by workmen to be about five hundred weight) into the room, it fell exactly between the bed's feet and door of the room, which were not two yards distance from each other: the sudden noise awaking the lad, he jumps out of bed, endeavouring to find the door, but was stopped by the great dust and falling of more bricks, &c. finding himself prevented, in this fear he got into bed again, and remained there till day-light, (the bricks and tiles still falling between-whiles about his bed) and then got up without any hurt, or so much as a tile or brick falling on the bed; the only thing he complained of, was, his being almost choaked with dust when he got out of bed, or put his head out from under the cloaths. There was a great weight of tiles and bricks, which did not break through, just over the bed's tester, enough to have crushed him to death, if they had fallen. Thus he lay safe among the dangers that threatened him, whilst wakeful providence preserved him. I am ready to testify the truth

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truth of the above: in witness whereof, here is my name,

HENRY MAYERS.

William Phelps and Frances his wife, lived at the corner of Southampton-buildings, over-against Gray's Inn gate in Holborn; up three-pair-of-stairs in the back room, that was only lathed and plaistered; he being then very ill, she was forced to lie in a table bed in the same room. About one o'clock in the morning, November 27th, the wind blew down a stack of chimnies of seven funnels that stood very high, which broke through the roof, and fell into the room, upon her bed; so that she was buried alive, as one may say. She cried out, Mr. Phelps, Mr. Phelps, the house is fallen upon me; there being so much upon her, that one could but just hear her speak. A coachman and a footman lying on the same floor, were soon called to her assistance. They all fell to work, though in the greatest danger themselves, and took her out without the least hurt; neither were any of them hurt, though there was much fell after they took her out. And when the bricks were taken off the bed the next morning, the frame of the bed on which she lay was found broke all to pieces.

William Phelps his wife, Holborn.

WILLIAM PHELPS.

Mr. Han-
son, regi-
ster of
Eaton.

Mr. John Hanfon, register of Eaton college, being at London about his affairs, and lying that dreadful night at the Bell-Savage on Ludgate-hill, was, by the fall of a stack of chimnies (which broke through the roof, and beat down two floors above him, and also that on which he lay) carried in his bed down to the ground, without the least hurt; his cloaths and every thing beside in the room, being buried in the rubbish: just so much of the floor and ceiling of the room from which he fell, as covered his bed, was not broken down. Of this great mercy he prays he may ever live mindful, and be for ever thankful to Almighty God.

Mr. Jo.
Clench's
child.

Mr. Joseph Clench, apothecary, in Jermyn-street, near St. James's desired to make a public acknowledgment of a wonderful providence in the preservation of his only child.

Two large stacks of chimnies, containing each five funnels, beat through the roof, upon the bed where she lay, without doing her the least harm; the servant who lay with her being very much bruised. There were several loads of rubbish upon the bed before the child was taken out.

Mr. Henry
Barclay.

A letter of Mr. Henry Barclay, from on board the *Russel* at Helvoetsluys in Holland.

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I received yours in the Downs. I expected to have seen you in London before now, had we not met with a most violent storm in our way to Chatham. On the 27th of November, about three o'clock in the morning, we lost all our anchors and drove to sea: about six we lost our rudder, and were left in a most deplorable condition to the merciless rage of the wind and seas: we also sprung a leak, and drove forty-eight hours expecting to perish. But it pleased God to give us a wonderful deliverance, scarcely to be paralleled in history; for about midnight we were drove into shoal water, and soon after our ship struck upon the sands: the sea broke over us; we expected every minute that she would drop to pieces, and that we should all be swallowed up in the deep; but in less than two hours time we drove over the sands, and got (without rudder or pilot, or any help) into this place, where we run our ship on shore, in order to save our lives: but it pleased God, far beyond our expectation, to save our ship also, and bring us safe off again. We shall remain here a considerable while, to refit our ship, and get a new rudder. Our deliverance is most remarkable, that, in the middle of a dark night, we should drive over a sand, where a ship that was not half our bigness, durst not venture to come in the day; and then, without

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knowing where we were, drive into a narrow place, where we have saved both lives and ship. I pray God give us all grace to be thankful, and never forget so great a mercy.

HENRY BARCLAY.

Rev. Mr.
John
Gipps.

The reverend Mr. John Gipps gave the following account, which he prefaced by acquainting the public it was not perfect or exact, but that it was true and faithful; that he would not impose on the publisher or the world in the least in any part of the relation.

I shall not trouble you with the uneasiness the family was under all the fore part of the evening, even to a fault, as I thought; and told them, I did not then apprehend the wind to be much higher than it had been often at other times; but went to bed, hoping we were more afraid than we need to be: when in bed, we began to be more sensible of it, and lay most of the night awake, dreading every blast, till about four o'clock in the morning, when, to our thinking, it seemed a little to abate; and then we fell asleep, and slept till about six; at which time my wife waking, and calling one of her maids to rise, and come to the children, the maid rose, and hastened to her: she had not been up above half an hour, but all of a sudden we heard a prodigious

gious noise, as if part of the house had been fallen down. I need not tell the consternation we were all in upon this alarm; in a minute's time I was surrounded with all my infantry, and thought I should be over-laid: I had not power to stir one limb of me, much less to rise, though I knew not how to lie a-bed. The shrieks and cries of my dear babes perfectly stunned me: I think I hear them still in my ears; I shall not easily, I am confident, if ever, forget them. There I lay, preaching patience to the little innocent creatures, till day began to appear.

Prayers and tears, the primitive christians weapons, we had great plenty of to defend us withal; but had the house fallen upon our heads, we were in that fright we could scarcely have had power to rise for the present, or do any thing for our security. Upon our rising, and sending a servant to view what she could discover, we soon understood the chimney was fallen down, and that with its fall, it had beaten down a great part of that end of the house: the upper chamber and the room under it. The chimney was thought as strong and well built as most in the neighbourhood; and it surprized the mason, (whom I sent for immediately to view it) to see it down: but that which was most surprizing to me, was the manner of its falling; had it fallen in any other way than what
it

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it did, it must, in all likelihood, have killed the much greater part of my family, for no less than nine of us lay at that end of the house, my wife and self, five children, a maid and a man: the bed my eldest daughter and the maid lay in joined as near as possible to the chimney, and it was within a few yards of the bed we lay in, so that there was but a step between death and us, to all outward appearance. One thing was very remarkable and surprizing; in the fall of the house, two great spars seemed to fall so as to pitch themselves on an end, and by that means to support that other part of the house which adjoined to the upper chamber; or else, in all likelihood, that must also have fallen at the same time. The carpenter, when he came, asked who placed those two supporters, supposing somebody had been there before him; and when he was told, those two spars had in the fall so placed themselves, he could scarcely believe it possible, it was done so artificially. In short, it is impossible to describe the danger we were in!

Rev. Mr.
Ja. o's
Cole of
Swyre,
Dorset-
sh re.

Another account from the reverend Mr. Jacob Cole, rector of Swyre in the county of Dorset.

I can assure you the tempest was very terrible in these parts, but there was a great mixture of mercy with it: though the hurricane

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ricane was frightful and very mischievous, yet God's gracious providence was therein very remarkable, in restraining its violence from an universal destruction: for then there was a commotion of the elements of air, earth, and water, which seemed to out-vie each other in mischief; the earth trembled and quaked, the foundations of the heavens moved and shook, and yet when all was given over for lost, we found ourselves more scared than hurt; for our lives were given to us for a prey, and the tempest did us only so much damage as to make us sensible that it might have done us a great deal more: but the care of providence was visible in our wonderful preservation. Myself and three more of this parish were strangely rescued from the grave: I narrowly escaped with my life, where I apprehended nothing of danger; for going out about midnight, to give orders to my servants to secure the house, and ricks of corn and furzes from being all blown away; as soon as I moved out of the place where I stood, I heard something of a great weight fall close behind me, and, a little after, going out with a light to see what it was, I found it to be the great stone which covered the top of my chimney to keep out the wet; it was almost a yard square, and very thick, weighing about an hundred and fifty pounds. It was blown about a yard off from the chimney,

2 Sam.
xxii. 8.

ney, and fell edge-long, and cut the earth about four inches deep, exactly between my foot-steps; and a little after, while sitting under the clavel of my kitchen chimney, and reaching out my hand for some fewel to mend the fire, I was again strangely preserved from being knocked on the head by a stone of great weight; it being about a foot long, half a foot broad, and two inches thick: for as soon as I had drawn in my arm, I felt something brush against my elbow, and presently I heard the stone fall close by my foot, a third of which was broken off by the violence of the fall: it grazed my ankle, but did not break the skin; it had certainly killed me, had it fallen while my arm was extended. The top of my wheat rick was blown off, and some of the sheaves were carried a stone's cast, and with that violence, that one of them, at that distance, struck down one Daniel Tookes, a late servant of the Lady Napier, so forcibly that he was taken up for dead, and to all appearance remained so a great while, but at last was happily recovered again. His mother, poor widow, was at the same time more fatally threatened at home, and her bed had certainly proved her grave, had not the first noise awakened and scared her out of bed; and she was scarcely gotten to the door, when the house fell all in. The smith's wife likewise being scared at such a rate, leaped

leaped out of bed, with a little child in her arms, and ran hastily out of doors naked, without hose or shoes, to a neighbour's house, and by that hasty flight both their lives were wonderfully preserved.

The reverend Mr. Thomas Watts, vicar of Orpington and St. Mary Cray, made the following observations upon the dreadful tempest.

Rev. Mr.
Thomas
Watts.
Orping-
ton and St.
Mary
Cray.

In the parish of St. Mary Cray in Kent, a poor man, with his wife and child, were but just gone out of their bed, when the head of their house fell in upon it, which must have killed them.

A great long stable in the town, near the church, was blown off the foundation entirely, at one sudden blast, from the west side to the east, and cast out into the highway, over the heads of five horses, and a carter feeding them at the same time, and not one of them hurt, nor the rack or manger touched, which were standing a considerable while afterward, to the admiration of all beholders.

The minister of South-Ash had a great deliverance from a chimney falling in upon his bed just as he rose, and hurt only his feet.

South-
Ash.

There was a very remarkable story of a man belonging to the Mary, a fourth rate man of war, lost upon the Goodwin-sands: all the ship's crew being lost but himself, he,

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he, by help of a piece of the broken ship, got aboard the Northumberland; but the violence of the storm continuing, the Northumberland ran the same fate with the Mary, and coming on shore on the same sand, was split to pieces by the violence of the sea: yet this person was one of the sixty-four that were delivered by a Deal-hooker out of that ship, all the rest perishing in the sea.

Bright-
helm-
stone.

A poor sailor of Brighthelmstone was taken up after he had hung by his hands and feet on the top of a mast eight and forty hours, the sea raging so high that no boat durst go near him.

Milford
Haven.

A hoy run on shore on the rocks in Milford Haven, and just splitting to pieces, a boat drove by, being broke from another vessel with nobody in it, and came so near the vessel, that two men jumped into it, and saved their lives: the boy could not jump so far, and was drowned.

Five sailors shifted three vessels on an island near the Humber, and were at last saved by a long-boat out of the fourth.

Water-
man.

A waterman in the Thames lying asleep in the cabin of a barge near Black-friars, was driven through London bridge in the storm, and the barge went of itself into Tower-dock, and lay safe on shore: the man never waked, nor heard the storm till it was day; and,

to

to his great astonishment found himself safe.

Two boys in the Poultry lodging in an upper-room, were by the fall of the chimnies, which broke through the floors, carried quite to the bottom of the cellar, and received no damage at all.

A neighbour of mine (says Mr. Henry Marshal of Orby) was upon the ridge of his barn, endeavouring to secure the thatch, and the barn at that instant was overturned by the storm; but the man received little or no harm.

The next two letters are from persons who were in as great danger as any could be, and record deliverances of the greatest and strangest kind.

From on board a ship blown out of the Downs to Norway.

I cannot but write the particulars of our sad and terrible voyage to this place. You know we were riding safe in the Downs, waiting a fair wind to make the best of our way to Portsmouth, and there to expect the Lisbon convoy.

We had two terrible storms, on the 18th and 25th of November; in the last I expected we should have foundered at an anchor; for our ground, being new and very good, held us fast, but the sea broke upon us so heavy and quick, that we were in danger

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two or three times of foundering as we rode : but as it pleased God we rid it out, we began to think all was over, and the bitterness of death was past.

There was a great fleet in the Downs ; several of them were driven from their anchors, and made the best of their way out to sea, for fear of going ashore on the Goodwin. The grand fleet was just come in from the Streights under Sir Cloudesley Shovel ; and the great ships being designed for the river, lay to leeward : most of the ships that went out in the night appeared in the morning ; and I think there was none known to be lost but one Dutch vessel upon the Goodwin.

Sir Cloudesley Shovel.

But the next evening, it began to gather to windward ; and as it had blown very hard all day, at night the wind freshened, and we all expected a stormy night. We saw the men of war had struck their top-masts, and rode with two cables an-end : so we made all as snug as we could, and prepared for the worst.

In this condition we rode it out till about 12 o'clock, when the fury of the wind increasing, we began to see destruction before us : the objects were very dreadful on every side ; and though it was very dark, we had light enough to see our own danger, and the danger of those near us. About one o'clock the ships began to drive ; and we saw several
come

come by us without a mast standing, and in the utmost distress.

By two o'clock we could hear guns firing in several parts of this road, as signals of distress; and though the noise was very great with the sea and wind, yet we could distinguish plainly, in some short, intervals the cries of poor souls in extremities.

By four o'clock we missed the Mary and the Northumberland, who rid not far from us, and found they were driven from their anchors; but what became of them God knows: soon after a large man of war came driving down upon us, let all her masts go, and in a dreadful condition. We were in the utmost despair at this sight, for we saw no avoiding her coming athwart our hawser: she drove at last so near us, that I was just going to order the mate to cut away, when the ship steered, contrary to our expectation, to windward, and the man of war, which we found to be the Stirling-castle, drove clear off us, and two ships lengths to leeward. Stirling-castle.

It was a sight full of terrible particulars, to see a ship of eighty guns and about six hundred men, in that dismal case: she had cut away all her masts, the men were all in the confusion of death and despair; she had neither anchor nor cable, nor boat to help her; the sea breaking over her in a terrible

N

manner;

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manner; sometimes she seemed all under water; and they knew as well as we that saw her, that they drove by the tempest directly for the Goodwin, where they could expect nothing but destruction: the cries of the men, and the firing their guns one by one every half minute for help, terrified us in such a manner, that we were half dead with the horror of it.

All this while we rid with two anchors a-head, and in great distress: to fire guns for help was to no purpose; for if any help was to be had, there were so many other objects for it, that we could not expect it, and the storm still increasing.

Two ships a-head of us had rid it out till toward five in the morning, when they both drove from their anchors, and one of them coming foul of a small pink, they both sunk together; the other came by us, and having one mast standing, she attempted to spread a little peak of her sails, and so stood away before it: I suppose she went away to sea.

At this time the raging of the water was so violent, and the tempest doubled its fury in such a manner, that my mate told me, we had better go away to sea, for it would be impossible to ride it out: I was not of his opinion, but was for cutting my masts by the the board, which at last we did, and parted with them with as little damage as could be expected;

expected; and we thought she rid easier for it a great deal: and I believe if it had blown two hours longer, we should have rid it out, having two new cables out, and our best bower and sheet anchor down. But about half an hour after five to six, it blew, if it be possible to conceive it so, as hard again as it had done before: and first our best bower anchor came home, the mate, who felt it give way, cried out, We are all undone, for the ship drove: I found it too true; and upon as short a consultation as the time would admit, we concluded to put out to sea before we were driven too far to leeward, when it would be impossible to avoid the Goodwin.

So we slipt our sheet-cable, and sheering the ship toward the shore, got her head about, and stood away afore it: sail we had none, nor mast standing: our mate had set up a jury missen, but no canvas could bear the fury of the wind, yet he fastened an old tarpaulin so that it did the office of a missen, and kept us from driving too fast to leeward.

In this condition we drove out of the Downs, and past so near the Goodwin that we could see several great ships fast a-ground, and beating to-pieces. We drove in this desperate condition till day-break, without any abatement of the storm and our men

heartless and dispirited, tired with the service of the night, and every minute expecting death.

About eight o'clock my mate told me he perceived the wind to abate; but it blew still such a storm, that if we had not had a very tight ship, she must have foundered, as we were now farther off at-sea, and by my guess might be in the midway between Harwich and the Brill, the sea we found run longer, and did not break so quick upon us as before, but it run exceeding high, and we having no sail to keep us to rights, we lay wallowing in the trough of the sea in a miserable condition. We saw several ships in the same condition with ourselves, but could neither help them, nor they us: one we saw founder before our eyes, and all the people perished.

An open
boat.

Another dismal object we met, which was an open boat full of men, who had lost their ship: any one may suppose what condition a boat must be in, if we were in so bad a case in a good ship: we were soon tossed out of their sight: we may guess what became of them. If they had been within a cable's length of us we could not have helped them.

About two in the afternoon the wind increased again, and we made no doubt it would prove as bad a night as before; but that gust held not above half an hour.

All night it blew excessive hard, and the next day (Sunday) about eleven o'clock it abated, but still blew hard: about three it blew something moderately, compared with the former; and we got up a jury main-mast, and rigged it as well as we could, and with a main-sail lowered almost to the deck, stood at a great rate before it all night and the next day, and on Tuesday morning we saw land, but could not tell where it was; but not being in a condition to keep the sea, we run in, and made signals of distress; some pilots came off to us, by whom we were informed we had reached the coast of Norway; and having neither anchor nor cable on board capable to ride the ship, a Norwegian pilot came on board, and brought us into a creek where we had smooth water, and lay by till we got help, cables and anchors, by which means we are safe in place.

Your humble servant,

J. ADAMS.

From on board the John and Mary, riding in Yarmouth roads, during the great storm, but now in the river Thames. John and Mary.

We came over the bar of Tinmouth, having had terrible blowing weather for almost a week, insomuch that we were twice driven back almost the length of Newcastle: with

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much difficulty and danger we got well over them, and made the highland about Cromer on the north side of Norfolk. Here it blew so hard the Wednesday night before that we could not keep the sea, nor fetch the roads of Yarmouth; but as the coast of Norfolk was a weather-shore, we hall'd as near Cromer as we durst lie, the shore there being very flat: here we rode Wednesday and Thursday, November 24th and 25th.

We could not reckon ourselves safe here; for as this is the most dangerous place between London and Newcastle, and has been particularly fatal to our colliers, we were very uneasy. I considered that when such tempestuous weather happened, as this seemed to threaten, nothing is more frequent than for the wind to shift points; and if it should have blown half the wind from the south-east as now blew from the south-west, we must have gone ashore there, and been all lost; for being embayed, we should have had no putting out to sea, nor staying there.

This consideration made me resolve to be gone, and thinking on Friday morning the wind slackened a little, I weighed, and stood away for Yarmouth roads; and with great boating and labour got into the roads about one in the afternoon, being a little after flood; we found a very great fleet in the roads;

roads ; there were above three hundred sail of colliers, not reckoning above thirty sail which I left behind me, that rode it out thereabout ; and there was a great fleet from Russia, under convoy of the Reserve frigate and other two men of war ; and about an hundred sail of coasters, Hull-men, and such small craft. Reserve
frigate.

We had not got to an anchor, moored, and set all to rights, but I found the wind freshened, the clouds gathered, and all looked very black to windward ; and my mate told me, he wished we had stayed where we were, for he would warrant it we had a blowing night of it.

We did what we could to prepare for it, struck our top-mast, and slung our yards, made all tight and fast upon deck : the night proved very dark, and the wind blew a storm about eight o'clock, and held till ten, when we thought it abated a little ; but at eleven it freshened again, and blew very hard ; we rid it very well till twelve, when we veered out more cable, and in about half an hour after, the wind increasing, let go our sheet anchor ; by one o'clock it blew a dreadful storm, and though our anchors held very well, the sea came over us in such large quantity, that we were every hour in danger of foundering. About two o'clock the sea filled our boat as she lay upon the deck, and

we were glad to let her go over-board, for fear of staving in our decks. Our mate would then have cut our mast by the board, but I was not willing; and told him, I thought we had better slip our cables, and go out to sea; he argued, she was a deep ship, and would not live in the sea, and was very eager for cutting away the mast: but I was loth to part with my mast, and could not tell where to run for shelter if I lost them.

About three o'clock abundance of ships drove away, and came by us; some with all their masts gone, and foul of one another; in a sad condition my men said they saw two foundered together; I was in the cabin, and saw not them, but I saw a Russia ship come foul of a collier, and both drove away together out of sight, and afterwards heard the Russia-man sunk by her side.

In this condition we rid till about three o'clock; the Russia ships which lay a-head of me, and the men of war who lay a-head of them, fired their guns for help; but it was in vain to expect it; the sea went too high for any boat to live. About five, the wind blew at that prodigious rate, that there was no possibility of riding it out, and all the ships in the road seemed to us to drive: yet still our anchors held it, and I began to think we should ride it out there, or foundered; when

a ship's long-boat came driving against us, and gave us such a shock on the bow that I thought it must have been a ship come foul of us, and expected to sink all at once: our men said there were some people in the boat, but, as the sea run so high, no man durst stand upon the fore-castle, so nobody could be sure of it: the boat staved to pieces with the blow, and went away, some on one side of us, and some on the other; but whether our cable received any damage from it, or not, we cannot tell, but our sheet-cable gave way immediately; and as the other was not able to hold us alone, we immediately drove: we had then no more to do, but to put afore the wind, which we did. By this time the tide of ebb was begun, which something abated the height of the sea, but still it went exceeding high; we saw a great many ships in the same condition with ourselves, and expecting every moment to sink in the sea. In this extremity we drove till day-light, when we found the wind abated, and we stood in for the shore, and coming under the lee of the cliff near Scarborough, we got so much shelter as that our small bower-anchors would ride us.

Sure such a tempest never was in the world! Of eighty sail in Grimsby road they could

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could hear but of sixteen, the rest were all blown away.

An unhappy accident happened in a ship homeward bound from the West-Indies: which is inserted as a monition against despair.

The ship was in the utmost danger of foundering; and when the master saw all, as he thought, lost; his masts gone, the ship leaky, and expecting her every moment to sink under him, filled with despair, he calls to him the surgeon of the ship, and by a fatal contract, as soon made as hastily executed, they resolved to prevent the death they feared, by one more certain; and going into the cabin, they both shot themselves with their pistols. It pleased God the ship recovered the distress, and was driven safe into port: the captain just lived to see the desperate course he had taken might have been spared; the surgeon died immediately.

It is ungrateful to relate, and horrible to read, that there were wretches abandoned enough to pass over this dreadful storm with banter, scoffing and contempt.

A few

A few days after the Great Storm, the players were imprudent enough to entertain their audiences with ridiculous representations of what had filled the whole nation with such horror, in the plays of Macbeth and the Tempest.

Immorality of the stage,
p. 5.

C H A P. IV.

Accounts of some extraordinary Hurricanes, since the great Storm 1703.

HAVING taken notice of some remarkable storms previous to that, distinguished, from its violence and extent, by the name of the *great Storm*; we shall continue the history of these terrible convulsions of the atmosphere from that time down to the present. The following melancholy particulars are of a hurricane at Jamaica, August 28th, 1722.

On the 28th past we had here a violent hurricane: It began at eight in the morning, and continued until ten at night: the height of it was from eleven at noon till one; during which time, it rained very hard, and the wind often shifted: nearly one half of the houses are thrown down, or shattered to such a degree, that they are irreparable, and few, or none, have escaped without some damage;

Hist. Reg.
No. 29.

Jamaica.

Kingston,
Sept. 3.

inasmuch that the town appears in a ruinous condition: Several people are wounded; but we hear of no more than three persons who lost their lives. The wharfs are all destroy'd, and most of the sugars and other commodities that were there, are washed away. From *Liguania* we hear, that most of their works and houses are blown down, and a plantation entirely destroyed by a vast quantity of sand being washed into it. We likewise hear, they have sustained great damages at *St. Mary's*, *Wagwater*, *St. David's* and *St. Thomas's* in the East; but we have not the particulars. We are informed, the hurricane began at some of those places, about seven the night before; and the damage they received, was between that time and eight the next morning, when its violence abated.

St. Jago
de la Ve-
ga, Sept.
3.

We have received considerable damage in our buildings in the late hurricane, particularly the king's house, and secretary's office; but we hear of very few that are any ways hurt in their persons. It is remarkable, that those houses which were built by the *Spaniards* sustained very little damage, though 'tis now sixty-seven years since the conquest of that island; consequently, those buildings are of a much older date: from whence

whence we may reasonably conclude, that they have met with accidents of the like nature, that put them upon that manner of building. We have an account from *Old-Harbour*, that the houses and people there are all destroyed except two; and that most of their works and houses at the plantations are thrown down: They have likewise suffered very much at *Sixteen-Mile-Walk*, and *St. Thomas's in the Vale*. Yesterday his Excellency sat in Council; and this day was publish'd a proclamation, for restoring to the right owners, the goods that have been embezzl'd in this calamity.

The dreadful hurricane we had here, the 28th of last month, we were under apprehensions of the day before, from the weather appearing very unsettled, and the wind often shifting: but the most surprising circumstance, which put us under the greatest consternation, was the prodigious swell of the sea; throwing up several hundred tons of stones, and rocks of a large size, over the wall, at the eastward part of the town, though at the same time there was very little if any wind. In the night, there was some rain, thunder and lightning, the which, we were in hopes would have cleared the air; but before the morning, the town was over-

Port-Royal, Sept.

3.

flow'd with water, occasioned by the continuance of the swell of the sea: about eight, it began to blow with great violence, at N. E. and continued till ten at night, during which time, it rained very hard, and the wind often shifted; but the extream part was from eleven at noon till one, when the water was five feet high all over the town, and we expected every moment to be destroyed. About three in the afternoon, the wind abated by degrees, and the waters fell away; but a more melancholy prospect scarcely ever was seen, and is not to be described: the streets being covered with ruins of houses, wrecks of boats and vessels, and great numbers of dead bodies: the inhabitants that were preserved, reduced to great extremity for want of water, provisions, and other necessaries, which were mostly destroyed; insomuch that a great number must have perished, had it not been for the assistance of his Majesty's ships that rid out the storm. *Fort-Charles* has suffered very much, and the east end sunk several foot; most of the cannon dismounted, and some washed into the sea: the church, and the row of houses to the eastward of the town, are washed away; insomuch that there is very little appearance of any buildings. Near four hundred persons lost their lives, and above half the town is destroyed: in short, the damage is so considerable,

siderable, that it cannot be computed. The magistrates were very diligent on this unhappy occasion, in burying the dead bodies, and preventing provisions being sold at higher rates than they were at, before the storm.

The following is an extract of a letter dated the 13th of *November*, 1722, from *Port-Royal* in *Jamaica*, containing further particulars of the terrible storm which happened in that island.

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No. 30.

Since my last to you, the affairs of this island are altered infinitely for the worse. This change has been made by a most terrible storm, that happened 2^d of *August* last, the damage which the island has suffered by it, is too great to be easily repaired again. Abundance of people have lost their lives by it, in one part or other of this island: some of them were dashed in pieces by the sudden fall of their houses; but the much greater part were swept away by the terrible inundation of the sea, which, being raised by the violence of the wind to a much greater height than was ever known before, in many parts of the island broke over its ancient bounds, and of a sudden overflowed a large tract of land, carrying away with an irresistible fury, men, cattle, houses, and, in short, every thing that stood in its way. In this last calamity, the unfortunate town of *Port-Royal* has had at least its full share.

And here I confess myself at a loss for words to give a just description of the horror of scene that we the inhabitants saw before our eyes, when the terrour of the sea that broke in upon us from all quarters, with an impetuous force, conspired with the violence of the wind to cut off all hopes of safety from us; and we had no other choice before us, but that dismal one of perishing in the waters if we fled out of our houses, or of being buried under their ruins if we continued in them. In this fearful suspense we were held for several hours; for the violence of the storm began about eight of the clock in the morning, and did not sensibly abate 'till between twelve and one: within which space of time, the wind and sea together demolished a considerable part of the town, laid the church even with the ground, destroyed above 120 white inhabitants, and 150 slaves, besides ruining almost all the store-houses in the town, together with all the goods that were in them, which amounted to a considerable value. We had at *Port-Royal* two very formidable enemies to encounter at the same time, *viz.* the wind and the sea. The situation of the place, it being on all sides surrounded with the sea, rendering it more exposed than other places to the fury of that boisterous element. Our only defence against the sea, consists in a great wall run
all

all along on the eastern shore of the town; the side where we apprehended most danger. This wall is raised about nine foot above the surface of the water, and may be about six or seven foot broad: and for these twenty years past, for so long the wall has been built, it has proved a sufficient security to the town. But in this fatal storm, the sea scorned to be restrained by so mean a bulwark; for the wind having, as I observed before, raised it very much above its ordinary height, it broke over the wall with such a force, as nothing was able to withstand. Two or three rows of houses that were next to the wall, and run parallel with it, were entirely washed away; among which was the church, a handsome building, and very strong; which yet was so perfectly demolished, that scarcely one brick was left upon another. A considerable part of the wall of the castle was thrown down, notwithstanding its being of a prodigious thickness, and founded altogether upon a rock; and the whole fort was in the utmost danger of being lost, the sea breaking quite over the walls of it, though they are reckoned to stand thirty feet above the water. This information I had from the captain of the fort, and other officers that were in it during the storm, who all told me, that they expected every minute to have the fort washed away, and gave up themselves

and the whole garrison for lost. In the highest streets of the town, and those that are most remote from the sea, the water rose between five and six foot. And at the same time the current was so rapid, that it was scarce possible for the strongest person to keep his legs, or to preserve himself from being carried away by it. In these circumstances, we were obliged to betake ourselves to our chambers and upper rooms, where yet we ran the utmost hazard of perishing by the fall of our houses which trembled and shook over our heads to a degree that was scarcely credible: the roofs were for the most part carried off by the violence of the wind; and particularly in the house to which mine, and several other families had betaken ourselves, the gable end was beaten in with such a force, that a large parcel of bricks fell quite through the garret floor into the chamber where we were, and had they fallen upon any of us, must infallibly have beaten out our brains: but God was pleased to order it so, as that not a soul received any hurt.

There was the morning on which the storm happened, a good fleet of ships riding at the harbour of *Port-Royal*, most of which had taken in their full freight, and were to have returned home in a few days, had they not been prevented by this terrible storm, which left but one vessel in the harbour, besides four
sail

fail of men of war, all which had their masts and rigging blown away, and the ships themselves, though in as secure a harbour as any in the *West-Indies*, were as near to destruction as it was possible to be, and escape it. But the most sensible proof of the unaccountable force of the wind and sea together, was the vast quantity of stones that were thrown over the town-wall; which, as I observed before, stands nine foot above the surface of the water; and yet such a prodigious number of stones were forced over it, that almost an hundred negroes were employed for near six weeks together to throw them back again into the sea; and some of these stones were so vastly big, that it was as much as nine or ten men could do to heave them back again over the wall. I am sensible this part of the relation will seem a little strange; but yet I doubt not of obtaining your belief, when I affirm it to you for a certain truth. But *Port-Royal* was not the only place that suffered in the storm. At *Kingston* also, great damage was done: abundance of houses were blown quite down, and many more were so miserably broken and shattered, as to be little better than none: abundance of rich goods were spoiled by the rain, the warehouses being either blown down or uncovered. But they had only one enemy to encounter, *viz.* the wind, and were not prevented by the sea from forsaking their fallings,

lings, and betaking themselves to the Savannahs, or open fields, where they were obliged to throw themselves all along upon the ground, to prevent being blown away; and yet even in *Kingston*, some persons were killed; among whom was a very worthy gentlewoman, the wife of the Rev. Mr. May, minister of the town, and the bishop of *London*'s commissary: she was killed by the fall of their house, as she lay with her husband under a large table, who had also the misfortune of having his own leg broke. All the vessels that rode in the harbour of *Kingston*, which were between forty and fifty sail, were either driven on shore, or overset and sunk. Abundance of the men and goods were lost, and one could not forbear being surprized to see large ships, with all their lading in them, thrown quite up upon the dry land. And nothing could afford a more dismal prospect than the harbour did the next day, which was covered over with nothing but wrecks and dead bodies. At *Spanish-Town*, no body indeed was killed, but a great many had very narrow escapes, some families having scarcely quitted their houses before they fell down flat at once, without giving any warning. The king's house stands indeed, but it is all uncovered, and the stables, coach-house, &c. are quite demolished. The river, near to which the town is situated, swelled to such a degree as was never before known;

known; and I was assured by the minister of the place, the reverend Mr. *Scot*, that it rose full forty foot perpendicular above its ordinary mark, and did incredible damage to the estates that lay bordering upon it. From other parts of the country we had also very melancholy accounts of the great losses they had sustained, and particularly at *Old-Harbour*, a village built at a little distance from the shore, the sea made such haste to devour, as most unexpectedly to intercept many poor creatures before they had time to make their escape; and almost forty poor souls perished together in one house, and whilst they only sought security from the wind, exposed themselves to be destroyed by the sea, from which they apprehended no danger. In *Clarendon* also, and *Vere* parishes, great mischief was done; in the latter, the minister, Mr. *White*, had his leg broke by the fall of the house where he was, not to mention several persons that were killed outright. But I should quite tire out your patience, should I undertake to give you a particular account of the damage that was done by the storm in all parts of the island. It shall therefore suffice to say, that the damage which the trading part of the island has sustained by the loss of their shipping and goods, is not to be valued; and on the other hand, it is impossible to say how deeply the planting interest has shared in this common calamity,

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calamity, by the loss of their dwelling houses and sugar-works, and many other ways; and in short, had the fury of the storm lasted much longer, the whole island must have been one general wreck, and nothing but final and universal ruin could have ensued.—

Storm in
England,
1735.

On Wednesday, Jan. 8th, 1735. About an hour before noon, the wind increased to a storm, at W. and W. S. W. so violent as has not been known since that memorable one Nov. 27, 1703; in comparison of which it was of longer continuance, but some think not quite so violent. In *London* it threw down several houses and stacks of chimnies, shattered windows, and almost covered every street with tiles; in the country, churches were stripped, many barns and some houses blown down, and trees without number torn up by the roots, and laid across the roads. But the greatest damage was done to the shipping; wrecks were to be seen every where along the coasts; several ships of the royal navy, at Portsmouth and Plymouth, were drove ashore, or lost their masts, and rigging; several boats were cast away on the Thames, but larger vessels escaped better there than in other harbours. Thirty-six large trees were laid flat in St. James's park—360 in the parish of Stockton, Wiltshire—100 in the D. of Queensberry's paddock at Amesbury—80 in St. Pier's walk in Monmouthshire

shire—2000*l.* damage done to the fine grotto, park and park walls of Mr. Scawen at Carshalton, Surry. The rivers being high from the great rains before, and during the storm, the waters were forced over their banks and overflowed the low lands; sheep, and other cattle were lost in some places, in others the people betook to their upper rooms to secure themselves from the inundations that were on every side. But we have not room to enumerate more particulars of the damage done before 6 o'clock in the evening, about which time it abated; nor indeed is it necessary; for the effects of it were perceived in much the same manner, at the same time, in every corner of the kingdom. But we must not omit the good, occasioned by this dreadful tempest, to the harbour of Wisbech, which has deepened by the freshes to above 15 foot water, so that ships come up to the town, which saving lighteridge, will be of great service to the trade. The price of tiling and workmen were raised double in many places on this occasion.

Wisbech
harbour.

Sunday, January 14th, 1739, happened at Edinburgh a dreadful hurricane of wind, which continued with great fury from one to four in the morning, whereby the high-built houses of that city received considerable damage; the leads which covered the stately buildings in the parliament close were carried off

Storm in
Scotland,
1739.

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off the roofs, some upward of forty feet in dimension; the Canon-Gate church suffered extremely, and its portico almost demolished; the buildings in the castle were very much damaged, their fine lead coverings carried off, and thrown upon the rocks, and the magazine ruined. At Glasgow several ships drove ashore, and are very much damaged, and two were cast away; the north coast betwixt Roseneath and Glasgow, is full of gabarts and small boats drove up among the corn land. In the merse few houses are left undestroyed, several churches are blown down, numbers smothered in the ruins, and an universal havock made amongst the sheep and cattle; at Dumfries, the fine new church was unroofed, and the high steeple much damaged; at Dysart a woman in labour, attended by the midwife and neighbours were all killed by the falling in of the house.

At Londonderry the storm was observed to begin and end with the eclipse of the moon, raging with the same violence and doing a vast deal of damage to the houses; at Dublin it threw down three chimnies belonging to the Lord Chief Justice Reynolds, blew down a corner of the deanery house belonging to Christ-Church, the front of a house in Francis-street, and almost innumerable chimnies.

Hunting-
donshire.

Tuesday, Sept. the 8th, 1741. About three quarters after eleven, began at St. Ives, Hunting-

Huntingdonshire, a very violent hurricane of wind from the W. that did not continue above half an hour, but blew down the spire, which broke through the church, and the damage is computed at 1500*l*. Scarcely a windmill is left standing within seven or eight miles of the place. The spires of Hemingford and Bluntisham churches were blown down, and the damage done the rector's house, and gardens of the latter place amounts to above 500*l*. The same storm reached Lynn about one, and spread a general desolation round that place; mills, trees, barns, stacks of hay, were some blown down, some stripped of the thatch; two spires fell, one of them through the body of the church, several ships lost their masts and rigging, and the damage in the town is reckoned above 20,000*l*. Maidenhead, Slough, Rochester, Chatham, Stroud, and several parts of Surry and Kent likewise felt the fury of this hurricane, which there came from the S. At night the shipping of Sunderland in Yorkshire suffered greatly by the storm where the wind was at E.

Wednesday, June 7th, 1749. About two hours after midnight, a tempest at Rome threatened the return of all the elements into their first chaos. Beside lightnings and thunder-claps, which continued without ceasing from the different points of the heavens, beside a deluge of rain, which overflowed

Storm at
Rome,
1749.

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flowed the whole city, filling the cellars, and even many houses, and beside a terrible hail, which broke the windows and the tiles which covered the houses, a hurricane or tourbillon of fire and wind, beginning near the Colefio, where it made the first ravages, extended itself along the great street which leads to *Santa Maria Majora*, and afterward broke on the gardens of the house of *Negrovi*, and on the other gardens, vineyards and buildings on each side the *Porto Pia*, carrying off the roofs of houses, throwing down entire walls, breaking the doors, the frames and glass of windows, rooting up the largest trees, and carrying them to a great distance; in one word, leaving in every part of this city marks of its fury.

Storm at
Cadiz,
1752.

At Cadiz, on the 15th of January 1752, at nine in the evening, wind E. S. E. began the most furious hurricane that was ever remembered in this bay, which drove all the ships from their anchors and foul of one another. All fired guns in signal of distress, but the night was so dark that none could help another; next morning nothing was to be seen but vessels wreck'd, and others ready to be swallowed up in the waves, the horror of which was increased by the dismal cries of unfortunate men, who endeavoured to swim to the walls of this city, against which they were violently dashed, and so perished. The night between the 16th and

and 17th was no less terrible, but on the 18th the wind fell, and the shore discovered nothing but pieces of wreck and dead bodies, fifty vessels, large and small, with a prodigious number of small craft were lost in the bay.—Above two hundred houses were blown down at Ceuta; a Dutch ship of war of twenty guns was cast away on the Barbary coast, ten persons drowned, and the captain and the rest of the crew, in number 134, made prisoners.—

Sept. 14th 1752 in the evening it began at Charles-Town to blow very hard, at N. E. the sky looking wild and threatening: It continued blowing from the same point, with little variation 'till about four o'clock in the morning of the 15th, at which time it became more violent, and rained, increasing very fast till about nine, when the flood came in like a boar, filling the harbour in a few minutes: before eleven o'clock, all the vessels in the harbour were on shore, except the Hornet man of war, which rode it out by cutting away her main mast; all the wharfs and bridges were ruined, and every house, store, &c. upon them beaten down, and carried away, (with all the goods, &c. therein), as were also many houses in the town; and abundance of roofs, chimnies, &c. Almost all the tiled and slated houses were uncovered; and great quantities of merchandise, &c. in the stores on the Bay-street

P

damaged,

A terrible hurricane at Charles Town, S. Carolina. From the S. Carolina Gazette, Sept. 19, 1752.

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damaged, by their doors being burst open: the town was likewise overflowed, the tide or sea having rose upward of ten feet above the high-water mark at spring-tides, and nothing now was to be seen but ruins of houses, canoes, wrecks of pettiauges and boats, masts, yards, incredible quantities of all sorts of timber, barrels, staves, shingles, household and other goods, floating and driving, with great violence, through the streets and round about the town. The inhabitants finding themselves in the midst of a tempestuous sea, the wind still continuing, the tide (according to its common course) being expected to flow till one o'clock, and many of the people being already up to their necks in water in their houses, began now to think of nothing but certain death: but [here we must record as signal an instance of the immediate interposition of the divine providence, as ever appeared] they were soon delivered from their apprehensions; for, about ten minutes after eleven o'clock, the wind veered to the E. S. E. S. and S. W. very quick, and then, (though it continued its violence, and the sea beat and dashed every where with amazing impetuosity) the waters fell above five feet in the space of ten minutes, without which unexpected and sudden fall, every house and inhabitant in this town, must, in all probability, have perished: And, before three o'clock, the hurricane was entirely

entirely over.—Many were drowned, and others much hurt by the fall of the houses.—At Sullivant's island, the pest house was carried away, and of fifteen people that were in it nine are lost, the rest saved themselves by adhering strongly to some of the rafters of the house when it fell, upon which they were driven some miles beyond the island to Hebcaw.—At fort Johnson the barracks were beat down, most of the guns dismounted, and their carriages carried away.—At Craven's and Granville's bastions, and the batteries about this town, the cannon were likewise dismounted.—The Mermaid man of war, which had just gone up to Hebcaw to heave down, was drove ashore not far from the careening place: the ship Lucy, of and for London, John Bulman master, which lay wind-bound in Rebellion road, dragg'd her anchors, drove by the fort and this town, and ran ashore upon a marsh about seven miles up Cooper river: A new vessel was driven off the stocks, and wrecked at Mr. Wright's: The schooner Nancy, John Baddeley, three other schooners, and the sloop Nancy, John Babb master, all of this port, ashore in Col. Heron's pasture: Another new vessel was wrecked near Mr. Scott's; and one but lately begun, with the snow Industry, belonging to Mr. David Brown, ashore on the green near his house; Capt. Walker's pilot-boat against the go-

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vernor's house ; and his sloop the Endeavour, bound for Jamaica, after beating down his Excellency's coach-house, stables, &c. was dashed to pieces against Mr. Raper's house, whose balcony door her mast entered : Two or three pettiagues were wreck'd against Mr. Caw's house ; a small schooner drove up against the old Custom-house door ; and one of Mr. Edward's pilot-boats to Mr. Thomas Smith's : Several boats, &c. against Mr. Price's. The sloop Katharine of New-York, Rich. Manley, master, bound for Halifax, and the sloop Industry, of and for Rhode Island, ashore on the head of Mr. Beresford's wharf : The snow Charming Nancy, of and for Hull, on the head of Capt. Simmons's, near the Council-chamber ; the brig. Peggy and Sally, of and for Bristol, Wm. James master, against the curtain-line, between Mr. Tho. Elliott's and Mr. Motte's ; the sloop Henry, Henry Cregier master, of and for New York, against the Exchange or New-market, where Mr. Edward's other pilot-boat is wrecked ; the snow Dove, John Tuppen, bound for Cape Fear, on the head of Mr. Eveleigh's wharf ; a small schooner, against the curtain-line, near the Dove : the brig. Two Friends, of and for Falmouth, Robert Johns master, beat down some houses, and lies on the west side of the Church-street, along side of Mr. John Mathews's : the ship Upton, of Liverpool, lately arrived from
 Rot-

Rotterdam, which lay up Ashley river, was drove a great way into the marsh near Wappoo: the sloop Polly, George Gore, bound for Barbadoes; the schooner Elizabeth, Alexander M'Gillivray, of this port, for Jamaica; the sloop Susannah, Amos Minot, also of this port; the schooner Baulk, with eight or ten other small schooners, owned here, and three or four pilot-boats, are drove, some into the woods, some into corn-fields, and others far into the marshes, on and about James island, Wappoo, &c.—For about thirty miles round Charles-Town, there is hardly a plantation that has not lost every house upon it.—All our roads are so filled with trees blown and broke down, that travelling is rendered extremely difficult; and hardly a fence was left standing in the town or country. Our loss in fine timber-trees is almost incredible; and we have suffered greatly also, in the loss of cattle, sheep, hogs, and all kinds of provision.

From Winyaw and Port-Royal, our accounts are much more favourable than were expected, no damage having been done to the shipping in those harbours, and very little to the houses, as the hurricane was hardly felt at either place.—

On Sept. 30, we had another terrible hurricane, which began with wind and rain, about four o'clock in the afternoon, but

Carolina
Gazette,
Oct. 3.

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ceased soon after seven in the evening. For two or three days before, the violence of the wind (which blew from N. E. and E. and at last settled at S. E.) and the great quantity of rain that had fallen, kept the tides from ebbing their due course and time, so that when this hurricane began to abate, though the water should have been low, it was higher than at common spring-tides; and had the wind rose as was expected, when the flood should have come in, our situation would have been most deplorable indeed! But the same providence that interposed before, was again visible here.

Carolina
Gazette,
Oct. 9.

The hurricane which happened on the 30th ult. has done greater damage at sea and to the southward, than that of the 15th: abundance of trees and several houses having been blown down that did not suffer before. At Port-Royal, the water rose four feet and an half higher than usual, and a sloop was drove ashore that entirely beat down Mr. Purry's wharf: a sloop from Rhode-island, ———Waldron master, bound for this port, put into Edisto, lost all her anchors, bowsprit, sails, boat, &c. the captain washed out at one of the port-holes, and thrown in again: the schooners Betty, John Mills master, from Maryland, with German passengers, and Minerva, Isaac Colcock, from Philadelphia, were obliged to put into Edisto:

Edisto: the snow Bristol Merchant, Capt. Parsons, from Bristol for this port, with a very valuable cargo on board, that sailed to come round from Port Royal after the first hurricane, lost her bowsprit, top-masts, sails, &c. in this; and is since beat to pieces upon Edisto bar, the vessel and cargo entirely lost: a large sloop, whose quarter was painted green and white, drove ashore and beat to pieces upon Kaywah island, none of the people, but many limes, found: Capt. Tedar's snow, drove into a marsh at St. Helena; near which inlet another snow, from sea, is said to beat to pieces: a large ship beat to pieces, upon the Hunting islands; and another sloop said to be ashore upon the southern coast.——'Tis reported, that a ship and sloop are also ashore upon the Racoon keys.—The ship Africa, of Barbadoes, and snow Vine, of Liverpool, drove ashore on the 30th ult. are since beat to pieces; but their cargoes have been saved: Tucker's schooner has been got off. All the books, surveys and papers, &c. in the surveyor-general's office, were five feet under water, in the first hurricane, many of them washed away, and the rest are in a perishing condition, though the utmost care has been taken of them.

On this calamity rice rose from 60 *per cent.* to 70, but since the hurricane, the weather having been warm, we now hope to

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make 60,000 barrels of rice; though just after it we expected no more than 30,000.

N. Carolina and
C. Bre-
ton.

By a storm that happened on the 1st of October, much damage has likewise been suffered in North Carolina and Cape Breton, at the latter of which places no less than 57 vessels were driven on shore, none of which can ever be got off. On the 9th of October, much loss was sustained also, by a storm on the coast of New England amongst the shipping.

Great
Britain.
1756.

October 7, 1756. About one in the morning a dreadful hurricane happened, the effects of which were very extraordinary and extensive over G. Britain. Fifteen passengers, and twelve horses were lost in the Old Passage cross the Severn from Wales. At Bath, a tree that stood in Dr. Harrington's garden was broken short off in the middle. At Penrith, in Cumberland, it blew down the N. W. battlement of the church, and the battlements of Mrs. Gaitsgarth's tower, which fell upon the roof of the lower house, and broke through it into a room where two young ladies, Miss Molly Bolton, and Miss Dawson of Blencoe were in bed. Miss Bolton was unfortunately killed, and Miss Dawson buried in the ruins, but afterward taken out unhurt. Almost every house in the town was damaged, and almost all the trees
in

in the neighbouring country shivered to pieces, or blown up by the roots. The corn was all laid flat, and damaged to the amount of a thousand pounds. A gentleman near this place observed, that the barometer fell two degrees and a half in less than three quarters of an hour. At Sunderland above forty keels are missing, and several ships damaged, and driven to sea; the bodies of twelve men were taken up the next morning, and there is therefore much reason to fear that some of the vessels that were driven to sea are lost. At Newcastle many houses were blown down, others unroofed, and scarcely a chimney left standing; above forty keels, and several vessels from London, were either sunk or driven to sea, and many men on board perished. A Danish vessel loaded with iron was sunk: The Blessing, of Whitby, was overset, and four boys drowned. At Aldstone Moor the people imagined the earth shook, and therefore ran out for safety, but were driven by the wind against banks and hedges, where they suffered much by the breaking of trees, and the falling of stones. Gibside wood, a place much visited by persons of taste, has suffered great damage; great numbers of the stately trees are either torn up, or shivered to pieces, large branches of others were twisted off, and scattered on the neighbouring hills, walks, lawns, and roads; great part of the south front and roof of

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of the elegant banquetting-house is ruined, though a column near 140 feet high, surrounded with scaffolding almost to the top, suffered no damage, nor was one rafter removed. At Greenock and Port Glasgow, the shipping both in the road and harbour broke from their moorings, and ran foul of one another, by which they lost their heads, boltsprits and masts. At Greenock, 500 trees are blown up by the roots, and two women, who went out to look after their friends on ship board, were blown into the water and perished.—At Dumfries, both the churches and many houses have suffered, and some thousand pounds worth of timber has been destroyed. In the midst of the storm a vessel drove away with only the master and one boy on board, but happily put on shore at the English side without damage, but several other vessels were lost with all their hands.—At Senwick, near Kirkcudbright, the storm was felt with great violence, and beside the common effects it divided two very large hay-stacks in the middle, and carried the upper part to a very considerable distance; several corn stacks were intirely carried away, and all the thatched houses uncovered. At Belfast, in Ireland, several vessels were driven on the Giant's causeway, several houses blown down, and many persons killed.—The storm was also very violent all along the coast of Hol-

Holland. In the district of Warmond and Leidendorp, a whirlwind took up several stacks of hay, the remains of which were no where to be found; ten cows that were grazing in the same meadow were blown into the water, and several carts and waggons that were going along the road were blown down, and rolled over and over with their drivers and horses into the water, which was taken up in great sheets, and scattered over the land to a considerable distance. Above sixty ships on the coast were stranded and lost.

On the day after this hurricane, it was observed that the tide at Long Drax did not flow above five or six inches, though it flowed above six or seven feet perpendicular the night before. There have been former instances of the tide being stopped by the wind, but none equal to this.

On March 6, 1757, arose the greatest storm of wind on the western coast of this island that has been known. — At Liverpool it began about nine, preceded by a dreadful roaring of the sea; at ten it blew a hurricane, and about eleven veered to the W. N. W. and was attended with such heavy squalls of wind, that the oldest person here don't remember the like. The sloop Duke, Thomas Deaz, for Drogheda; a river sloop, Tarken, for Preston; and brigantine Quester, Potter, for Africa, sunk. Brigantine Drogheda Merchant, James Heys, for Drogheda,

Liver-
pool,
1757.

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Drogheda, and the brigantine Manchester, Randle, M'Donald, for Londonderry, over-set, sunk, and were stranded all of them opposite the town.

The snow Monmouth, Twentyman, ship Johnson, Gawith, and snow Swale, Pollard, for Virginia; ship Trafford, Clarke, for Philadelphia; snow Hopewell, Langford, for Barbadoes; snow Mears, Barrel, for Africa; and a sloop, Williams, from Holyhead, all riding at anchor at the Black Rock, parted their cables, and were put ashore in Bootle Bay. The Marlborough, Ward, for Virginia; Rainbow, Harrison, for Africa; and St. Andrew, Burdon, for New York, were the only vessels that rode it out there. The ship Great Britain, Hicks, from Riga, and the brig John, Clifton, for Yarmouth, were put on shore near Knott's Hole. The Liverpool Exchange, Urmson; the Smithson, Salisbury, from London and Barnevest, Howard, for London, were forced ashore near Highlake; a Dutch vessel, name unknown, and all her crew perished. A pilot-boat, William Cerlett, late owner and master, met with the same fate. Duke of Argyle, Hardy, for Virginia; Carolina, Erskine, for Barbadoes, with many others, parted their cables. Ship Alice, Brigs, from London, cut away her masts, and the Ince boat, with several others, were bulged and stranded.

The

The damage in the town of Liverpool was very considerable, numbers of chimnies, some houses, and many walls, were levelled with the earth; roofs unstripped, and showers of broken slates, bricks, &c. rendered the streets impassible. About forty-two feet of the lofty spire of St. Thomas's church, (which was esteemed one of the most beautiful in Europe) fell upon the body of the church, broke through the roof, and has tore down the west galleries.

In the different parts of the adjacent country, barns, houses, and other buildings were stripped, and many levelled with the ground. Considerable damage is done at Knowsley-hall, the seat of the Earl of Derby. Crofbie, Sephton, Woolfall, Spellow, and several other mills are blown down, ricks of hay entirely destroyed and carried away. Happily for the sea coast, the tides were at the the lowest, or in all probability there would have been considerable more damage done; for though it was ebb tide in course, yet the flood returned, or rather did not go out of the river. The gale abated and backed to N. N. W. and N. about one o'clock in the afternoon.

At Chester above an 100 chimnies were Chester.
blown down, most of the houses stripped of their slating; the chimnies at the minster, and all the windows on one side are blown to pieces; and all along the adjacent road
the

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the houses and barns were stripped, and hundreds of large trees torn up by the roots. At a little town called Acton, within a mile of Nantwich, the top of the church steeple beat in the roof of the church, and damaged it to the amount of 2000*l*. At Nantwich the church is much shattered, and the houses mostly stripped.

Worcester
at the
Town-
hall.

At Worcester the wind blew down a stack of chimnies at the Town-hall, which beat through the roof, and thence through the ceiling over the Nisi-prius bar, while the court of assize was sitting. Mr. Justice Wilmot was on that bench, but his Lordship happily received no hurt, and there happened to be only five of the counsellors present, four of whom were hurt, but not dangerously, viz. Mr. Moreton, Mr. Aston, Mr. Nares, and Mr. Ashurst; Mr. Aston prevented further damage to himself by instantly slipping under the council table; but Mr. Moreton was presently jammed in by the rubbish, and remained so some time. The six following persons lost their lives on this occasion, viz. Mr. Lawes, the cryer of the court; Mr. Chambers, an attorney of Kidderminster; Mr. Freme, an ironmonger; Mr. Hurtle, of Hartlebury; and Mr. Shaw of Omberley; all of whom were taken out dead from amongst the rubbish, and most dismal spectacles they were, as was likewise Mr. Vainwright of Bromsgrove, who did not die till
some

some time after he was carried out of the hall. Divers other people were greatly hurt. It is not to be conceived what confusion the court was presently in, or what mischief ensued from the people's hurrying out of the hall, and in going down the hall steps, whereby several were thrown down, and trampled upon a considerable time; nor is it easily to be described the anxiety of such people who happened to be at home, while some of the family were out and supposed to be gone to the hall. Mr. Baron Adams, who sat at the crown-bar, at the other end of the hall, had adjourned the court, and was gone to his lodgings but a few minutes before this melancholy accident happened, which put an entire stop to the business of the assizes.

April 1st, 1757, a most violent hurricane arose in France, which threw down chimneys at Paris, tore up trees by the roots in the adjacent country; and at Havre de Grace the play-house was blown down while the opera of Sampson was performing, and above 100 persons perished in the ruins, &c. The candles setting fire to the timber, the whole was reduced to ashes.

France,
1757.

Last Monday about noon, a violent hurricane, or whirl-wind, passed through part of Chelsea (or Rumney-marsh) in New England, which

Boston in
New Eng-
land, Aug.
7, 1758.

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which arose and came off the water from the S. W. bending its course about N. E. supposed to extend its width but about four or five rod, and seemed to carry all before it, tearing up by the roots a great number of stately oaks, and elms above sixty feet in height, as also a great many apple trees in several orchards; particularly in one orchard only, sixty-three fine trees were torn up, leaving the ground about the roots open twenty or thirty feet over. With great fury it came against some of their stone fences, and threw them down, in some places hardly leaving one stone upon another: A cart standing in the midst of a barn loaded with hay, was forced a considerable way out; and some of the posts or rafters of the barn broke off. In one place, the gust seemed to rise, so that the limbs and branches of lofty trees, were broke off as if cut with an axe. It passed by one corner of a dwelling house, and shook it so violently, that the people expecting it would be turned over, ran out to save their lives. So violent a hurricane was scarcely ever known in these parts.

London,
1760.

February 15, 1760. It blew a hurricane, by which much damage was done both at land and in the river. A stack of chimnies falling in Newcastle court, near Grosvenor square, demolished the bed and furniture of two rooms. The lead was blown off the
house

house of Earl Cowper, in Great George street, into the street. A house in Hanover-street, had the gable end blown off. One of the pinnacles of a building adjoining to the House of Commons was blown down, and broke through the roof of the room over the Speaker's chamber. The Mall in St. James's Park was covered with branches of trees. Upwards of twenty seven feet of lead on the admiralty roof was rolled up by the force of the wind like a scroll; and a great number of chimnies, fences, &c. were blown down in Westminster.

Many ships in the river were driven from their anchors, some lost their rudders, and received considerable damage by running foul of one another. The Mary, Whitson, was driven ashore below Limehouse, but by taking out her guns, &c. they got her off with little damage.

The papers from the country were filled with the terrible effects of this storm. In many places it was attended with thunder, lightning, hail, and rain; and it untiled houses, blew trees up by the roots, and swept away ricks of corn, hay, and cottages.

At sea it did incredible damage to the shipping; in almost every harbour some persons perished in boats and in ships; but the loss most to be regretted is that of the unfortunate Ramillies, Capt. Taylor, with 734 men. Being embayed within the Bolt-

Ramillies
man of
war, lost.

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head

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head (which they had mistaken for the Ram-head, and imagined they were going into Plymouth Sound) and close upon the rocks, they let go their anchors, and cut away all their masts, and rode safe till five in the evening, when the gale increased so much 'tis impossible to describe; they parted, and only one midshipman and twenty-five men out of the whole, jumped off the stern on the rocks, and were saved.

Charles-
Town, S.
Carolina.

On the 4th of May 1761, a most violent whirlwind of that kind commonly known by the name of Typhones, passed down Ashly river, in S. Carolina; and fell upon the shipping in Rebellion road, with incredible violence. This terrible phenomenon ploughed Ashley river to the bottom, and laid the channel bare. It made a noise like constant thunder; its diameter was judged to be about 300 fathoms, and its height 35 degrees. Upon its meeting another gust the tumultuous agitation of the air was increased, and the froth and vapour seemed to be thrown up to the height of forty degrees, while the clouds that were driving in all directions to this place, seemed to be precipitated, and whirled round at the same time with incredible velocity. There were forty-five sail of ships in the road, five of which were sunk, and his majesty's ship the Dolphin, with eleven others, lost their masts, &c. The damage to the ship-

shipping was reckoned at 20,000 *l.* sterling. The strong gulf by which it was met checked its progress, otherwise Charles Town must have been driven before it like chaff. This tremendous column was first seen about noon, upward of fifty miles W. by S. from Charles Town; and destroyed in its course houses, plantations, men, and cattle. In several parts, every tree and shrub was torn up; great quantities of branches and limbs of trees were seen furiously driven about, and agitated in the body of the column as it passed along. By four o'clock the sky was clear and serene, so that it was scarcely to be believed that such a dreadful scene had been so recently exhibited.

August 19, 1763. About twelve at noon the sky was overcast in such a manner, that the darkness in and about London was greater than at the late great eclipse in 1748, insomuch, that many apprehended an earthquake, the appearance being much the same as preceded the last great earthquake at Lisbon. About Chatham, this darkness was accompanied with one continued rolling of thunder for the space of forty minutes, and the lightning was almost incessant, but at a great distance, for the same space of time. At Twickenham large trees were torn up by the roots, stacks of chimnies were blown down, and other damage done by the hurri-

Storms in
England.
&c. 1763.

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cane that accompanied the darkness. About Reading several trees were torn up by the roots, two sheep were killed, and several people were beat down and terribly frightened. At Brighthelmstone the storm was very awful, and the oldest fishermen say, nothing had been like it in their memories. About Maidstone in Kent, the hops suffered considerably by the storm. The same at Farnham and about Canterbury. But the most surprising circumstance that attended this phenomenon, was the sudden flux and re-flux of the tide in Plymouth pool, exactly corresponding with the like agitation in the same place at the time of the great earthquake at Lisbon. At Sheerness, some dreadful convulsion of nature was apprehended. The windows exposed to the fury of the storm, were crushed to pieces; fowls were killed by the hail, and much damage done.

France.

During the same month many melancholy accounts were received from divers places abroad, of the devastations made by storms, inundations, earthquakes, and other terrible phenomena. On the 13th of July, there fell, at Martize in France, a violent storm of hail, which for three leagues round destroyed the corn, fruits, vines, flax, and every other vegetable. Several of these hail stones weighed three pounds. At Peney-Luxemburg, in the same kingdom, the corn
and

and trees for eight leagues round, were entirely ruined by the same storm; and at St. Florentin, thirteen parishes felt the like dreadful effects. On the 12th, 15th, and 16th, sixty communities in the election of Bar-sur-Ante met the same fate; and by the storm on the 14th, the fruits of the earth in twenty-eight parishes in Berry, were almost destroyed. At Rebau in Voigtland, on the 16th, ninety-four houses were reduced to ashes by the lightning that accompanied a storm that happened in that neighbourhood. The hopes of the harvest in Denmark were destroyed by storms of hail and wind. On the 28th of July a most violent storm arose in the neighbourhood of Brussels, in which the torrents overwhelmed houses, and the lightning killed men. On the 16th of June, a most violent eruption of Mount Gabal, in the island of Messina, terrified the inhabitants Messina. for many miles round. The torrent of inflammatory matter thrown out on the 24th, had advanced two miles, and was supposed to be thirty feet broad and sixteen deep. On the 1st of July the lava had extended twelve miles. The roaring which proceeded from the volcano, was heard distinctly at the distance of twenty miles; and, added to the frequent shocks spread consternation throughout the neighbourhood. A prodigious quantity of fine black sand was discharged from the mountain, and darkened the air to the distance.

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stance of fifteen miles, but the eruption did no other damage than burning some trees in the wood of Paterno, and destroying the grass over which it proceeded. At Duna, in Russian Lithuania, seven hundred houses were destroyed by fire; and at Kohelin, in Poland, the whole city was reduced to ashes. At Eimbec in Hanover, six houses were set on fire by lightning; and at other places in the same electorate, the storms had done considerable damage. On the 19th of July a very thick fog at Presbourg in Hungary, was succeeded by a violent shower, in which there fell many thousands of flying insects. In the neighbourhood of Nantes in France, the heavy and continual rains almost entirely destroyed the harvest of every kind. On the 21st and 22d of June, the waters rose in two hours to the height of twenty-five feet; at the same time the tide suddenly sunk about a foot, and as suddenly rose a foot and an half. At Petersbourg, the weather had been hotter than is usual in Spain or Italy, and the inhabitants were apprehensive of a great mortality. In Sweden, the mortality among the horned cattle made great havock, the very horses suffered by it; and, what added to the distress of the inhabitants, there raged a great famine in the country. Poland had supplied them with corn hitherto, but that resource began likewise to fail. On the 2d instant at Anderlicht,

licht, about a league from Bruffels, a conflict of several winds, borne upon a thick fog, lasted four or five minutes, and was attended with a frightful hissing noise, which could be compared to nothing but the yellings of an infinite number of wild beasts. The cloud opening discovered a kind of very bright lightning, and in an instant the roofs of one side of the houses were carried off and dispersed at a distance; above a thousand large trees, were some broke off at the root, others towards the top, and others tore up by the roots, and many both of the branches and of the tops, carried to the distance of 60, 100, or 120 paces; whole coppices were laid on one side, as corn is by ordinary winds. The glass of the windows which were most exposed, were broken. A tent in a gentleman's garden was carried to the distance of four thousand paces; and a branch tore from a large tree struck a girl in the forehead, as she was coming into town at the distance of forty paces from the trunk of the tree, and killed her on the spot. Some days before, there was a heavy rain which overflowed, in the same direction, the very space of ground which the whirlwind since ravaged. Many more instances of the same kind might have been collected.

October 2, 1763. A violent storm did considerable damage to the shipping in different

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ferent parts of the coasts of this kingdom, as well as in the river Thames, where two outward-bound Indiamen were driven from their moorings, and the lighters, with their guns on board, sunk. This storm was no less violent in Ireland and Scotland than here, the fatal effects of which were more and more heard of every day.—The packet boats for Ireland were reduced to the greatest distress in this storm, and having, as it is said, neither fire nor candle on board, the passengers, in number 100, and more, were almost suffocated in the hold, where they were forced to remain in as bad a situation as the black hple, till the packet very fortunately got to Haverford-West, where the hatches were opened and the poor creatures released, just as many of them were ready to expire.

Letters from Ireland also gave dreadful accounts of the damages done by this storm. At Thomas-Town the bridge was carried away, together with the post-office and several houses, and some persons drowned. John's and Green's bridges in Kilkenny; also Callen, Enistague, Bennet's Ballylynch, and and Two-mile bridges were all thrown down; and a small rivulet, which runs through Gowran, rose twenty feet. The falling of John's bridge was attended with the most affecting circumstances, being crouded with people going to the assistance of a family whose house was surrounded with water, and

and was shortly after carried away: the number of persons lost on this melancholy occasion was upward of seventy. Seventeen bridges in the county of Wicklow were carried away: and the commons of Lyons laid four feet under water.

December 2, 1763. A most violent storm of wind and rain did incredible damage in and about London, and in many other parts of the kingdom, the like hardly known in the memory of man. At London several houses were blown down, some people killed, many wounded, and business interrupted; chimnies in many parts of the town fell upon the roofs; the roofs were stript, and the streets, during the violence of the storm, rendered impassable; part of the walls of Hyde-park and Sadler's-wells gave way; trees were blown up by the roots; and the river Thames rose so high, that in many places it overflowed its banks; filled cellars; overflowed land, and did immense damage to the shipping below bridge.——At Oxford, the battlement on the north side of the quadrangle was thrown down, and many houses stript. At Trompington near Cambridge, the house of Elias Bland was blown down, his wife and child killed, and himself much wounded; but the inland towns suffered little to what was felt at the sea-ports. At Chatham several boats were sunk, and the sea-walls

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walls were beat down, overflowed, and greatly damaged. At Wells near Lynn, the quay and streets adjacent were covered with cables, and boats belonging to ships, some in halves, and others so broken as not to be known by the owners; wrecks, rafts, planks, blocks, ropes, stones, and mud so clogged up the streets that they were utterly impassable to the quays. More than 100 sheep perished in the neighbourhood, and 1500 between that town and Lynn.—At Lynn the town was almost drowned, and people's beds floated under them; near 3000 cattle were lost in the neighbourhood; all Marshland was overflowed, and fresh water was scarcely to be bought for money. Near Spalding in Lincolnshire, the pastures were overflowed, and more than 3000 sheep drowned. At Yarm the floods rose six feet high in the streets, and filled several houses to the same height. At half past eight at night it was in most houses four feet deep, in few less, and in many near two yards. Some people did not perceive the danger till their beds floated under them. The walls about the town were thrown down, but no houses fell. At Wisbech the river overflowed its banks, and laid the country under water for many miles, by which more than 10,000 sheep were drowned. At York the battlement at the east end of the minster was blown down, houses were unroofed, and the river Ouse rose
to

to an alarming height. At Whitby the tide rose so high, the wind raged so furiously, and the land floods rushed down so rapidly, that almost all the houses near the river were either driven away or damaged; some of the ships in the harbour were dashed to pieces, and even those in the dry dock were forced off the blocks, and suffered considerably; in short, when the storm abated, and the waters were assuaged, nothing was to be seen but desolation and ruins. What is remarkable, the S. W. side of the West isle of the Old Abbey, though supported by more than twenty Gothic arches, gave way, and tumbled to the foundation, and not a stone of it remained standing. At Scarborough houses were stripped, chimnies thrown down, and ships broke loose from their moorings in the harbour; some dashed against the rocks, and many lives were lost on the adjacent shores; such was the fury of the winds and waves that fragments of rocks were thrown up against the castle, and it is amazing, said a letter writer from thence, that any thing was left standing. At Newcastle the swell of the river was three feet higher than ever had been known; the cellars, shops, and warehouses contiguous to it were so filled, that the damage done by the flood only is computed at about 4000l. In some places the water was three feet deep in the streets, and the consternation the people were in is incre-

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incredible. In short, the whole town was so alarmed, that the people sat up all night, many of them expecting every minute to be their last; and the cries that were poured forth in the dead of the night, through speaking trumpets, from persons going down to the great deep, without any possibility of relief from the land, was inexpressibly affecting. At Margate the sea made a free passage over the new pier-head, beat down the light that guided vessels into port, threw down the gun-battery, and forced the cannon into the sea; some shops and warehouses on the shore were washed away, and a great number of small craft were dashed to pieces. The number of wrecks all along the east coast was incredible; but the violence of the storm seemed to have been centered there. At Deal it is only said, that the sea ran mountains high, and had done considerable damage to the outworks there. Near Falmouth the Hanover packet from Lisbon was lost, and near sixty persons perished. There were treasure and effects on board to a large amount, a great part of which, it was hoped, would be recovered by the divers when the weather settled, as the wreck was seen at low water. The Tinnars behaved with great decorum on this melancholy occasion.

January 13th, 1764. A prodigious storm of wind did irreparable damage on the sea-coast;

coast; and the rise of the waters in most of the considerable rivers, was no less ruinous to the inland parts. Such a number of ships have been driven ashore and wrecked, as never were known before in one season; the insurers must be sufferers to the amount of vast sums, and many merchants and owners of ships in various nations are probably undone by the hand of providence.

In England, part of the banks of the river between Corlton and Rawcliff, in Yorkshire, were broken down, and the adjacent country overflowed. The river Ouse broke its banks, and overflowed the country from Selby to Barllbeg, to an almost incredible height. Yarm underwent a second inundation, and the current demolished every garden wall that stood in its way. The country adjoining to the river Hull was under water for many miles, and a more melancholly prospect cannot be described. In the neighbourhood of Spalding a hare was taken upon a sheep's back, on the first rise of the inundation in that neighbourhood. The river Stockferry so over topt its banks, that it became a perfect cascade, roaring night and day. In Ely several thousand acres were overflowed, and in Norfolk the Narr has done the same. The north stone bridge at Oundle was broke in three places; and the great bridge at Ternpsford blown up. The famous ruin at Godslow was blown down.

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down. Thorney bank was broken down, and more than 20,000 acres of land laid under water between Wisbech and Peterborough. The noted stone mill, formerly a prison, at Yaxley, was blown down. By the waters being so long out, the church at Newbury sunk two feet deep. The Thames overflowed its banks, so that the west country barges could bring no meal or malt to London. The inundations have been so general in England; that room is wanting to enumerate the damages done by them, nor have they been less general or less fatal abroad. At Hambourg the Elbe rose eleven feet above high water-mark. Great part of Guelderland, Overysfel, Cleves, the district of Beruwe, and almost all South Holland, were overflowed. Fourteen mills on the Rhine have all been carried away by the floods. The villages of Moes and Zell laid under water, and the cattle and corn and fruits of the earth lost. The damage done at Frankfort, by the waters, was computed at 40,000 l. 72 villages in the neighbourhood of Munster were overflowed, and it is said 12,000 souls perished.

1766.

At Monferat, an English settlement in the West Indies, the water poured down from the mountains in such torrents, about the time of the earthquake at Martinico, in August 1766, that part of the town was carried

ried away, many of the inhabitants lost their all, some negroes perished, and many vessels were heaved ashore, and stranded.

At St. Christopher's many vessels were lost.

At St. Vincent's some small craft.

At Antigua many plantations suffered, and some ships were lost.

At Barbadoes little or no damage was done.

At Dominica a few ships were lost, but no material damage was done in the island. In short, almost all the West India islands were, more or less, affected either by the hurricane that attended that convulsion, or soon followed it.

At St. Eustatia, a violent hurricane and earthquake laid waste great part of the island, on the sixth of October; many ships were lost, and incredible damage done.

In November, the river Tarne in Italy overflowed its banks in such a manner, that the suburbs of Montauban were laid under water, the foundations of the houses undermined, and many of them thrown down. Upwards of 200 families have been obliged to fly with their best effects, to seek for bread in the higher parts of the city in the day, and to take shelter at night in the churches. Their situation was the most deplorable, and the

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the fatal effects of this deluge throughout the whole district were inexpressibly mournful.

Letters from various parts of Germany took notice, that there had not been so long a drought in the memory of man in that country, as happened this year. The Rhine was forded in many places, and a rock discovered in the Neckar, on which was engraved 1476, a memorandum of the drought at that time; four inches below which, is now engraved 1766.

A most furious hurricane, attended with thunder and hail, seemed to threaten the island of Cephalonia (a Venetian island) on the 31st of May. All the steeples of the churches were blown down, trees torn up by the roots, houses demolished, and the roofs whirled about in the air. The sea in the port of Argostoli rose to an immoderate height, and began to overflow the town, to the inexpressible terror of the inhabitants. This fatal hurricane, which lasted thirteen minutes, was succeeded by violent shocks of the earth, more alarming than the hurricane, as the whole island seemed to be moved, many houses thrown down, and the inhabitants obliged to lie in the open fields. The number who perished cannot be estimated, but the consternation was universal, as the tremulous motion was felt, at times for fifty minutes.

On

On the 14th of Nov. 1766, at nine in the evening, a horrible tempest began at Cette in Languedoc by a threatening cloud, and large claps of thunder, accompanied with rain, hail, and a most impetuous wind from the south-east. Some chimnies fell during the night, but this was only the prelude to our misfortunes. The 15th, the rain, lightening and thunder were almost continual. Toward evening the waters of the sea rose to such a height that all the warehouses along the keys were entirely overflowed. This swell of the sea, joined with the water which descended in abundance from the mountain, at the foot of which our town is situated, made great ravages, and occasioned immense losses. During the night, the inhabitants were in the utmost consternation, not being able to save their effects, and seeing themselves every moment in danger of perishing. But still this was nothing to what happened on Sunday the 16th. The thunder, and a deluge of rain, had lasted all night long; both redoubled at break of day, the first dawn of which, joined with the frequent glare of lightening, gave us a view of all the dreadful havock that had been made. Part of the people had run to the first mass in the parish. There, at the instant when the priest was making some reflections, by way

Cette in
Languedoc.

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of

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of homily on the apparent effects of the wrath of God, the thunder entered the church through the great portal, and after terrifying all present, made its way out again, without hurting any body, through the roof of the next chapel.

Another party of the people were gone to mass at the community of penitents. The street in which this community is situated, though very large, is more exposed than any other to the fall of waters from the mountain. Accordingly in this street happened those disasters, which, but for the peculiar protection of providence would assuredly have been more numerous. The fall of the waters had already filled all the cellars in the night; and stones of an enormous size, as well as the earth which rolled down along with them, had blockaded, to the height of three feet, almost all the doors of the houses in the great square. The penitents were at the moment of consecrating the host. The church opened in two; but which is astonishing, the roof remained half opened, and hung in that manner, for several minutes, so that all present had time to get out. In an instant after, the wall of the front, and one half of the roof, fell down nearly on the heels of the hindmost, as well as two houses situated opposite.

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The fall of these buildings is attributed to subterraneous waters which hollowed and sapped the foundations. A Neapolitan ship perished on the coast, and another appears at this instant in great distress, to which we are endeavouring to point out the entrance into our port, by signals."

I am, &c.

At Edinburgh a most remarkable storm of lightening attended with thunder, continued from nine in the evening Jan. 3, 1767, till morning. The sky, for minutes at a time, appeared covered with fire; and a fiery meteor, of a round shape, was seen, for a considerable time, running from north to south, with prodigious velocity.

Edin-
burgh,
Jan. 3,
1767.

On Thursday night Jan. 4, 1767, a most violent storm of wind and hail, coming from the N. E. and blowing right into Whitby harbour, caused the tide to rise near three feet perpendicularly higher than the oldest man living can remember. A number of houses were entirely demolished; a great many more damaged; nay, hardly any that stood near the river weathered out the storm clear of harm: The slaithing adjoining to the river has given

Whitby,
Jan. 4,
1767.

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way in many places, and some of it is entirely down: The pavements, conduits, &c. where the waves reached, were torn up in an inconceivable manner; and the piers greatly shattered; the allum works at Saltwick have suffered very considerably; and the damages in the whole, cannot amount to less than 5000/.

Isle of
Thanet,
Jan. 6.
1767. On the 6th of January a violent gale of wind at N. W. brought on a most furious tide, which bore down every thing within its reach. The pier at Margate has suffered damage estimated at 1000/. The jetties are almost every where much damaged, and in many places quite destroyed. The coach road leading to the parade, is almost entirely washed away. The houses on the parade were thought to be in such immediate danger, that the inhabitants removed all their most valuable effects. The low buildings between Hall's library and the sea are all swept off. Beal's new castle in the air, contiguous to them, shared, in part, the same fate; fortunately it was not so far finished as to be habitable. The brooks are again all under water. Great loss and damage has been sustained by many private people. The whole is a scene of the greatest desolation and confusion.

Some

Some mischief has been done at Ramsgate, but inconsiderable in comparison of this.

Poor Broadstairs, in St. Peter's parish, has felt the whole force of the storm; the pier is utterly destroyed, and such a quantity of baich carried into the harbour, as will probably ruin it for ever. Twelve ships, belonging to the Iceland cod-fishery, and one vessel on the stocks, will, with great difficulty, if ever, be got out. The place is undone; and many honest, laborious families, who gained a competent livelihood by the fishery carried on there, must now be turned adrift, to seek their bread where they can find it: What makes their calamity the more pitiable is, that their pier having suffered very great damage in the storm of 1763; they presented a petition for a brief, at that time, as the only method which could be proposed to prevent their ruin; most unhappily for them, their petition was rejected.

The country in general is very sickly, and provisions and necessaries of all kinds are immoderately dear. The distresses of the poor are inexpressible, and yet they bear these accumulated miseries with a most unexampled patience. They have not raised the least tumult, or committed the

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the least outrage. Their case is truly deplorable; and the benevolent will afford them their pity at least.

Newcastle
Jan. 10,
1767.

At Newcastle Jan. 10th, 1767, they had a great fall of snow, with lightening and thunder. The sea was much higher than was known in the memory of the oldest man living; several of the quays in the lower part of this town, and at Shields, were overflowed, and many cellars filled with water. Several ships in the river have also received much hurt by the violence of the wind, particularly at Shields, where many broke from their moorings, and were driven against the quays on the south shore, breaking down and unroofing the houses. Two vessels sunk in the harbour. A keel was drove upon Mr. Cooksons ballast wharf, wherein were five men fast asleep, who never discovered their situation till the tide had left them some hours. All the ships in the new harbour of Hartley-pans were sunk, to prevent their being damaged by running foul of each other, or driving to sea. At Seaton near Hartlepool, several houses were washed down; and a chest of tea, in the original package, was driven ashore. At Staiths, Sandsend, East-row, and Saltburn, they have undergone a second

inunda-

OF STORMS. 231

inundation, still more fatal than the former one. one third part of the inhabitants of Straits are ruined. The lightening on Friday night mistaken by some for the aurora borealis, was such as rendered small bodies conspicuous, the succession of the flashes being so quick and intense.

A most terrible hurricane arose in the island of Cuba on the 25th of October 1768. It began on the south side of the island; and died away at the north; and though it lasted but two hours, its violence was such, that it was computed to have destroyed 96 public edifices, among which were reckoned the great cathedral at Havanna, the custom-house, the great tobacco magazine, St. Jaques Fort, the principal jail, and the convent of St. Augustine; beside 4048 dwelling houses. There were 110 persons buried under the ruins, and a great number of lives lost in the plantations. Sixty-nine ships were drove on shore, most of which were beaten to pieces; two fine docks were ruined, and three large vessels on the stocks destroyed. The damage of shipping was the greater, as the Spaniards had enticed many ship-carpenters, smiths, and other artificers, from the island of Jamaica; and were using indefatigable pains to put their marine there on a respectable footing.

Cuba.
1768.

The

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The distress of the poor inhabitants was inexpressible; and the humane behaviour of the archbishop of St. Domingo, and the bishop of Cuba, highly praise worthy. These benevolent men, in the midst of the storm, went about encouraging the people, and invoking the mercy of the Almighty; and the rest of the religious exerted themselves in an uncommon manner on this calamitous occasion. The convents were open to every one, and the unhappy sufferers were entertained in them with the greatest hospitality, until their houses were made habitable.

F I N I S.



